END QUARTER-DAY ANXIETY.

Why tolerate the worries, inconveniences and restrictions of a tenant, when the "City Life" simple system of easy instalment payments on blot you to enjoy the rights and privileges of ownership?

Full particulars, free from D.R.U.B.

CITY LIFE Assurance Co., Ltd.

(D. Bailey, F.S.S. Gen. Man.)

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AN XMAS GIFT FOR YOU! See Page 22.

JOHN BULL

VOL. LXVI. No. 707. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1919. TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

JELKS'

HIGH-GRADE SECONDHAND FURNITURE

Half Cost and Double Wear of Cheap New Goods. £50,000 worth of stock. Established over 50 years. Call and view magnificent display of best Secondhand Furniture.

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Resting, but Watchful

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

WHICH OF THE THREE?

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

"JUST RIGHT"

There is nothing better than a good cup of coffee as a preparation for the day's work—serve Milkmaid Café au Lait for breakfast, and your family will tell you that it is "just right." Its delicious and aromatic flavour, its stimulating and sustaining qualities make it an ideal beverage.

MILKMAID CAFÉ AU LAIT

The distinctive beverage of our French allies—finest pure coffee, rich full-cream milk and sugar all skilfully mixed in correct proportions. Easy to prepare and most economical. Try a tin to-day.

Sold Everywhere at Cash Price 5½d., 10½d., and 1/8 per tin.

For introductory purposes, a 5½d. tin of Café au Lait and Handsome Book of Recipes will be sent FREE on receipt of 3d. to cover postage.

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The Cocoa Nibs. Adventure No. 8.

Getting Sunny

"Oh dear! You do look pale," they cried.
"I don't feel well," the Moon replied.
"I'm getting smaller every day:
"In fact, I'm fading right away."

The Cocoa Nibs held out a cup.
To cheer the poor old fellow up.
"Drink lots of this, and when you've done,
"You'll have more colour than the sun."

R. ARKELL.

(To be continued)

A CUP of Rowntree's Cocoa is delicious nourishment to the last drop.

For children, invalids, and all the busy people to whom keeping well is a matter of vital importance, Rowntree's Cocoa is of great value.

It tastes so good. You can enjoy a cup of Rowntree's when you have neither time nor inclination for more solid food, and if you are restless and overtired a cup of Rowntree's Cocoa immediately before going to bed will help you to a good night's rest.

Rowntree's Cocoa

ELECT

"WARMS AND CHEERS"

Find Things in the Dark!

How trying it is to have to fumble about a dark room to find the matches. Stick an Ingersol-lite Locater on the box. It glows brightly and shows just where to put your hand. Hang an Ingersol-lite Pendant on each switch, gas tap and paraffin lamp. This will prevent knocking and breaking electric lamps, gas mantles and lamp glasses in the dark. Get one of each to-day and see them glow at night. Many other uses will at once suggest themselves to you. They last for years. Fixed without trouble or tools.

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Locater, in two kinds—adhesive back and thumb-tack. Pendant, an unbreakable glass tube, with cord for tying on. **1/6** each of all dealers in Ingersoll Watches, or direct, post free, on receipt of price.

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Extraordinary how many men smoke "Turf" Cigarettes "for luck"—and with good reason, too. They are the general "favourite." Ask any retailer or smoker. Just as good as carrying a lucky horse-shoe, and far more convenient. Twenty winners in every packet.

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BIG VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

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SUCCESS IN LIFE.

To succeed in life good spirits and hopeful thoughts are required. The man who is despondent or irritable always fails. Low spirits and irritability of temper are often caused by a dull, torpid liver. Wake up your liver with **Carter's Little Liver Pills** and start the day with a bright, cheerful face. Both your health and business will benefit. No pain, no discomfort. Thousands recommend them. Good for old and young—purely vegetable.

Small Pill—Small Dose—Small Price.

GENUINE must bear signature *Rowntree*

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NEARLY 100 YEARS' REPUTATION.

Many eminent physicians endorse "Neave's," and mothers by the thousand recommend it. Easily assimilated and digested, builds bone, nerve and tissue, forms healthy flesh, and ensures freedom from teething troubles, rickets, and other infant complaints arising from improper feeding.

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"EVENING TELEGRAM."

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
Milton.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXVI. No. 707. **Week ending Saturday, December 20th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day]

The Old Story.

What damnable news is this we hear about Mons heroes, suffering from shell shock and unable to obtain pensions, now being workhouse inmates? This is not the sort of thing we promised in our recruiting days.

Germany's Latest Bluff.

So Germany proposes herself to try her war criminals—obviously with the view to prevent their being brought over here. It only remains for her now to settle a tribunal of her own for the trial of the Kaiser!

Our Aplomb.

Commenting on a recent debate, the *Observer* says, "the leadership of the House was assumed for the time being by Mr. Bottomley, with all the aplomb of a practised Front Bench hand." We have not noticed much aplomb on the Front Bench recently!

The Lords and the Aliens.

Lord Newton and his friends are making a pretty mess of the Aliens Restriction Bill, and it will be our duty, together with those with whom we were associated before the measure went "up," to move that "This House doth disagree with the Lords' amendment."

The Coal Muddle.

The Government cannot be in any way blamed for what happened with reference to the Coal Profit Bill. The measure was introduced against the expressed wish of its own supporters, and when the Labour men—to whom it had been promised—rebelled against it, Mr. Lloyd George had nothing else to do but to tear it up. This sort of thing means the death of Parliamentary bargaining.

The Dead Canine Warrior.

One of the most interesting things we came across during our visit to the Grand Fleet two years ago was the bulldog mascot presented through us sometime previously to the Flagship of the Commander-in-Chief. He was present at the Battle of Jutland, and we are sure he was happy to have lived to witness the surrender of the German Fleet. However, peace to his memory.

"Let No Dog Bark."

We are not quite sure as to the exact locality of Wallasey, but it appears to have a corporation of its own, and to have been promoting a Bill for the purpose of obtaining very extensive powers in regard to Local Government. The only one, however, which at the moment interests us, is its request for Parliamentary authority "to prevent the barking of dogs on the foreshore."

Ireland.

Yet another effort—destined to the same fate which has overtaken all its predecessors—to bring peace to the distressful country. Meanwhile, Sinn Fein outrages continue—and the Priests utter not a word of denunciation. What is the Pope doing about it?

Dear Money.

Mr. Chamberlain is not coming very well out of his defence of the Banks. We hoped he would follow the example of Mr. Bonar Law, who sent them about their business eighteen months ago, when they wanted to make the thousand million War Loan a six per cent. instead of a five per cent. issue.

A HOLIDAY TREAT.

The "Deutschland" will not be on view on Christmas Day, but will be open to inspection both on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, as well as on every Sunday and the ordinary days of the week. A launch leaves Charing Cross Pier every half-hour. All proceeds of the Exhibition go to King George's Fund for Sailors.

A large assortment of Victory souvenirs has now been manufactured from metal guaranteed to be taken from the submarine, and a catalogue of the same will be forwarded on application to the Secretary, Victory Club, 26, King Street, St. James's, London, S.W. 1. These articles are specially adapted for the purpose of Christmas presents, and should be secured at once.

French Premium Bonds.

Readers desirous of participating in this issue—and especially those to whom a minimum subscription of 500 francs is inconvenient—should communicate with the Secretary of the Victory Bond Club, 26, King St., St. James's, London, S.W.1.

Victory Bond Club.

Immediately after the holidays a meeting of members will be called for the appointment of Trustees and Auditors and the settlement of other details connected with the affairs of the Club. Due notice of the date and place of meeting will be given in this journal.

Runciman's Rubbish.

Thus Mr. Runciman, whom, we understand, aspires some day to being Mr. Asquith's successor in the Liberal Leadership: "The people, he felt, had taken up Bottomley, and if they took up Mr. Bottomley for their religion and Mr. Chamberlain for their finances, they were in a pretty bad way."

No Pretence.

According to *The New Commonwealth*, we "do not pretend to be impartial or even just in our likes and dislikes." Perfectly correct. There is no pretence about us in such matters.

An Editorial Oversight.

From the *Yorkshire Evening Post*: "German language thoroughly taught, conversation, coaching, etc." Surely the editor of our contemporary must have overlooked this announcement!

The Daily Herald.

We heartily wish success to the efforts of this journal to obtain further capital. However much we may differ from its views, we fully recognise the necessity for even the extremist section of public opinion to have its own organ in the Press, but let the money be clean.

The House and Champagne.

According to Mr. Kneeshaw, of the Independent Labour Party—whoever he may be—"the present House of Commons has drunk more champagne in a week than any other Parliament has done in six months." He has evidently been watching some of the Labour M.P.s—who are very loyal to our French allies.

Mr. Punch's Mistake

Apropos of our enquiry as to the appointment of a suitable business man to the post of Consul-General at New York, *Punch* thinks we are "prepared to find such a man within five minutes without leaving our own office." We assure our worthy brother that our "own office" is the only one we have any ambition to fill.

The Soldier's Charter.

The Courts Martial Report is bearing fruit. Already the punishments of soldiers under sentence at the date of the Armistice have been reviewed—with the result that out of 400 cases of penal servitude a very large number of remittances have been granted; whilst out of 900 sentences of imprisonment over 500 have been totally remitted, and nearly 1,000 soldiers have been released from detention. What about those sentenced since the Armistice?

"Too Awful."

Mr. Hopkinson, M.P. for the Moseley Division of Lancashire, is reported to have expressed his determination to retire, as the people he has to meet in the House are "too awful for words." We have sat upon two Committees with Mr. Hopkinson and also watched him fairly closely in the Commons. We are bound to say that, despite his undoubted sincerity and honesty of purpose, he is far from being the most delectable member.

Local Limerick.

(*Spiritualists say the late Sir William Crookes is trying to communicate with us through a medium. To prove his identity, the "spirit" repeated the word "Klipdam."*)

There's a voice that now comes from the spooks,
And they say it is Sir William Crookes';
"To prove who I am,"
Said the spirit—"Klipdam!"
(Did he talk so ere going off the hooks?)

A Job for Conchies.

It is pointed out to us that in some districts the sanitary arrangements are of a primitive character, and that as the local authorities "find it rather difficult to obtain men for the very necessary duties they entail," suitable jobs with respect to them could be appropriately found for clients of the Conscientious Objectors' Employment Agency. Carried *nem. con.*

The Pensioners' Plight.

Although the maximum rate of the Old Age Pensions is only 7s. 6d. weekly, official figures prove that the maintenance of a workhouse inmate costs the country on an average 20s. 6d. a week, while the hospitality of H.M. prisons works out at 42s. 9d. for convicts in penal servitude, and 30s. 10d. for other prisoners. Nothing could more strikingly emphasise the inadequacy of the present provision for the aged poor—among whom, as is not surprising, the rate of mortality is heavily on the increase.

Wanted, A Kitchen Union.

In the opinion of a "Housekeeper in a large Establishment," if the domestic servant had some protection and more consideration there would not be the dearth of servants there is at the present time. It is an old story. Unions galore would be quite willing to accept domestic workers. The modern domestic has made so much money and enjoyed so much freedom on munitions that she will not take single service in any middle-class house on any terms not her own, therefore it is often more satisfactory for housewives to struggle on with daily help as and how it can be obtained.

A Missed Opportunity.

It is a sign of the extent to which the Labour Party is out of touch with realities that it finds no place in its programme for a thoroughgoing reform of the Marriage and Divorce Laws, whose manifold anomalies press so heavily on the poor. Is it fear of the "Little Bethels" that prevents the Parliamentary Labour representatives from urging this matter upon the Government? Whatever the reason, they are losing a splendid opportunity of effective action in a sphere where, admittedly, there is at present "one law for the rich and another for the poor," owing to the costly complexities of a system that is ripe for drastic reform.

The Match Problem.

We are in almost daily receipt of foreign match-box covers, accompanied by snorts of moral indignation at the iniquity of allowing these goods to compete with the home-made product; but we are bound to say that a good deal of the responsibility rests with British manufacturers, certain firms having taken unscrupulous advantage of the temporary suspension of foreign imports to deteriorate the quality of their supplies. Unless there is an improvement in this respect, the public must not be blamed if they welcome foreign competition as a protection against the wiles of the profiteer who, with fixed prices and a closed market, has had things all his own way during the war.

The Gas Bill.

Judging by our correspondence, many people resent the fact that while the gas companies were quick to send out notices of increase and come and collect the money when coal went up 6s. a ton, they are pretty slow in sending out notices of a reduction now that coal is down 10s. a ton; also that the quality is still rotten. Our readers are really inexcusable. It behoves even the poorest of us to be patient while a highwayman is picking our pockets.

Men of Letters.

Arithmetic of Arbitration Award, from a postal worker: "Increase on pre-war cost of living, 120 per cent. Bonus allowed, 70 per cent. Difference, 50 per cent. Latest Arbitration Award, 10 per cent. Outstanding, 40 per cent." One wrong does not right another, 'tis true, but scores of thousands of people in this country, on pre-war comparisons, are out by more than 40 per cent. Postal workers have a union; let them make every legitimate use of it. To be frank, we have more time for wage earners without a union, and therefore without advocacy or protection.

☛ **FOOTBALL PRIZE—BIG INCREASE.**

£400

FOR NAMING TEN WINNING TEAMS.

Or next largest number of winning teams.

This handsome prize MUST BE WON.

Fill up the coupon on page iii. of cover.

The Home-coming.

A Liverpool lad, only 22 now, has fought on all fronts, and is just home from Russia. And his welcome? Well, he finds a landlord threatening to sell over his father's head the little shop where the family has toiled on for years. An inflated price is asked, which prevents the dad from buying. But, when the landlord sells to a stranger, it will be that father's goodwill which commands the extortionate figure. And the soldier boy complains bitterly. And he is justified.

"Aphrodite."

The above-named play, now running in "little ole N'York," described as "a nightmare of nude men and women," and which the inhabitants of New York are flocking in vast crowds to see, suggests that Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson might be better employed in watching over the morals of his compatriots "over there," than in impertinently attempting to interfere with the moderate drinking habits of the English people. It is obvious that one of the results of America's "going dry" is an uncontrollable passion for unhealthy excitement on the part of the enforced teetotalers, which they assuage in drugs and salacious plays.

Those Phantom Houses!

As we have all along contended, the proper solution of the housing deadlock is to release building materials from Government control, and leave the private contractors to "get on with it." Endorsing this view of the matter, an experienced correspondent attributes the breakdown of the recent Housing Act to the fondness of the Government draughtsmen for "ifs" and "buts," and to the fact that, while it was always "must" for the local authorities, it was nothing stronger than "may" for the Ministry of Health. It's "heads we win, tails you lose" for the Coalition, whose record in this matter is in poor contrast to the lavish promise of a year ago.

Tithes and Taxes.

We have a lot of sympathy to spare in these days for the parson whose income is dependant on tithes—at any rate, until Parliament decides that people should no longer pay tithes to keep parsons. It is earned income, as that of everybody else who labours in the vineyard; yet, unlike every other labourer, the parson is rated as well as taxed upon it. This is a damned shame; by which we mean it ought to be damned and it isn't.

Rough on the Rector.

A Kent Rector assures us that on his earned income for the half-year alone he has to pay rates amounting to £55, and that owing to the increase in them the situation has become impossible. Clergy there are who dare scarcely take thought of the morrow, but who could perhaps just manage if they had not to pay this unfair local impost on their income. The Church have powerful influences in and outside the House. Why don't they set to work to relieve their clergy of the extortion?

More about Postmarks.

This country has the worst postmarks in the world. For legibility Canada and America beat us to a frazzle. If the Postmaster-General feels that he can put his hand on his expansive bosom and say that he can't do any better, we will undertake to do the whole stamp-obliterating job for him—one condition among others being that he will allow us to incorporate in the stamp our reverberating slogan, "Write to JOHN BULL About It."

Sold Again.

To her surprise, a Biscombe lady has received from the Post Office a label she had previously attached to a parcel containing a partridge, value 4s., and butter, value 1s. 3d.—after enquiry, being officially informed that as the label had become detached the goods had been sold to avoid loss, and an order for 10d. was therefore enclosed in payment. They must have some fine food auctions at Mount Pleasant from time to time. Perhaps some of the officials have solved the problem how to live on next to nothing.

The Widow's Mites.

"An Officer's widow," writes a woman whose husband, a naval officer, went down with his ship, "gets £24 per annum only for each child; a war orphan's parent gets £31 4s. and a clothing allowance of £8, *i.e.*, £15 4s. more than an officer's child." She "had £1,000 per annum." With two babies to keep and presently educate, she has now only £148 a year inclusive "and no private money." There may be reasons for the differentiation stated. If so, we do not perceive them. Can the Pensions Minister make them clearer than mud?

Rents and Rates.

A legal correspondent calls our attention to a curious anomaly in the existing law. The Increase of Rents Acts protect the tenants of houses up to a rental of £70 per annum in London, and £52 in the provinces, but at present the "standard rent" of a flat is taken at its nominal figure, ignoring the fact that it is nearly always inclusive of rates. This is very unfair to the occupants of small flats, who are left nakedly exposed to the risk of extortion, although the rent they are paying, if estimated apart from the rates, would fall within the prescribed limits. If the view the Courts have taken is the correct one, the Legislature should remedy an obvious injustice.

Local Limerick.

(*Mrs. Mabel Walenn, of Willesden Green, prefers her pipe to chocolates, and smokes it regularly.*)

There's a lady whose pipe is no joke,
She does not cough, splutter, or choke;
With 'baccy she stuffs it,
And, the moment she puffs it,
She ends all her troubles in smoke.

Final Notice.

Income tax (quarterly assessments) final demand on an upper Norwood man: "... I hereby give you Final Notice that if the amount be not paid within seven days from this date steps will be taken for recovery either by Distraint (with costs) or Proceedings in Court. J. O'Donovan, Collector, 123311, 5th July, 1919, £0 0s. 6d." Our friend had better pay up, or they will be after his grand piano.

Be Jabers, an' Whoi Not?

Here's one way to solve the Irish Question: Let the Prince of Wales marry an Irish girl, descendant of one of the Irish kings. Would not such a union rally to the throne all the discordant elements at present distracting the Disthressful Isle? That an Irish girl was destined to be their future queen would fire the imagination and appeal to the patriotism of every Irishman who is at the same time a *man*.

Over the Coals.

On going to the Direct Colliery Supply Co., at Hove, a reader was recently informed they could deliver ½ ton for 13s. 3d. At the same time Hove Corporation were "charging 2s. 10½d. cwt. to fetch it from their dept." In other words, the Company's price was 53s. a ton, delivered, and the Corporation's price 57s. 6d. a ton, fetched. Our reader wants to know why. This is one for the local Fuel Controller. If we said the extra 4s. 6d. a ton went to the Corporation in relief of the rates, we might be telling a whopper.

Bredfield's Bane.

Bredfield is near Woodbridge, and Woodbridge is in Suffolk, and in Bredfield there is a filthy pond used as drinking water. When a pail was taken there recently, it was found that "some farm horses had rested opposite and a torrential rain had converted the droppings into liquid manure, which was running down the stones to the pond." Even in normal times, it is said, the pond is covered with weeds. Better-class houses, half-an-hour's walk away, have the advantage of a pump. The suggestion is that a well could be sunk on Bredfield Green, and another pump installed for the advantage of poorer folk who have now to drink from this pernicious pond.

A Fictitious Crime.

What was described in the local Press as a "singular charge" was recently preferred at Liverpool against Martin Burke, formerly in the Army, and latterly an employee of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. Briefly, Burke was charged with "stealing" a quantity of cigarettes which had been condemned as unfit for use and were on their way to the destructor. Such a trumpery accusation ought to have entailed no punishment whatever upon a man with the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a fine military record, to say nothing of his 20 years' service in the Mersey Docks. In fining Burke £3 15s. 2d. and registering a conviction against him, the Liverpool City Justices were seriously at fault.

Oh, Horrex's!

Just one more reference to the Dis-Appointments Department, Horrex's Hotels. A naval officer, registered in March, could get never a word from it. A strong silence was preserved until the middle of November, when somebody wrote to ask if the officer had yet secured a berth, and, if not, would he fill up a form stating who and what he was! This Department is the most stupidly incompetent and expensive absurdity produced by the war.

Muff on Muzzles.

At Ipswich one William Garlock has been charged with not muzzling his dog. He said the animal was muzzled when it left home, and a witness confirmed his statement. And this was the sapient decision of Mr. E. C. Ransome (the Deputy Mayor) and Co.: "While believing defendant's version, they pointed out that a dog was just as dangerous unmuzzled accidentally as if it were an intentional act," and fined the man 10s. It is comic justice. The police charge him with failing to muzzle his dog, and though the Magistrates believe he did muzzle his dog they mulct him for not muzzling it!

Wasted Murphies.

Mrs. A. Cooling, Walcot Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, reports that in May last her husband received orders from a Government agent to get 10 tons of potatoes ready for rail, and to put five tons on rail at once. No further official instruction was given, and the five tons left went rotten. Cooling put in a claim, and was advised to "attend a meeting at Boston." On arrival he was told "they could not hear his case, so they promised to pay him his expenses to go again, but he had a letter come this week they could allow him nothing and they never sent his expenses." Mrs. Cooling adds that they are only poor working people. What's the Minister of Agriculture say about this case?

AN XMAS GIFT FOR YOU!

See page 22.

Red Light—Danger!

All bicyclists must show a red light behind them, so that no poor motorist shall hurt himself by running over them. Some riders have secured a notable war invention, a lamp showing a bright white light ahead and a red light to the rear. It does not satisfy the cautious and meticulous police. To combine two lights in one lamp is "agin the law," and will lead to a summons. Their argument is that an accident is prevented by two lamps, and not by two lights. Seems footling.

Starvation Pensions.

The L.C.C. might well be a little more generous towards the widows and orphans of members of the Fire Brigade killed in the performance of their dangerous duties. Following upon our recent disclosures, we hear of a case in which the widow of a London fireman, with three young children to support, has been struggling through the war period on a pittance of £20 per annum, with the addition of 3s. weekly for each child, the small lump sum received under the Workmen's Compensation Act having been wholly absorbed in eking out this starvation allowance. There is no excuse for such stingy treatment of the dependents of heroes of peace.

The New Meyer.

The Rev. F. B. Meyer, replying to the question of a contemporary as to whether kissing under the mistletoe should be abolished, said: "I think we must take great care not to become prudish. I can see no great harm in the old English custom." A miracle! The Rev. Meyer can see no *great* harm in a custom involving promiscuous kissing!

The Same Bad Story.

Godmanchester Borough Treasurer resigned, and vacancy was advertised. The only applicant was a fully qualified and experienced man, a soldier from 1914 to 1919. So Godmanchester did not appoint him, but, waiting a while for somebody else to come along, voted the berth to a gentleman with no war record.

Dyeing and Fleecing.

We are at one with a lady, who complains of a firm charging her 18s. each for dyeing a costume and coat-frock, that dyers should be brought under the Profiteering Act. At present they escape on "services rendered." There is no essential difference, for the declared purposes of the Act, between dyeing and cleaning a suit and making one—yet a tailor can be hauled up for overcharge but not a dyer. Profiteering must be stamped down and out.

Sore Stricken.

The Committee of the Netherne Asylum had to ask their assistant porter to resign because he, having lost an arm and a leg in the war, was not sufficiently strong for his duties. They granted him a life pension of 5s. a week. But their humanity halted there. They are wanting to eject him, wife, and two children from his cottage, and refuse him an extension of time, though he cannot find another home anywhere. One committeeman suggested the man could go "to the Union" when turned drift. Think of it! But it *must* not be.

Short Story.

Scene: Portsmouth Road, top of Hindhead. Time: 12, midnight. One car comes across another, disabled. Driver of broken-down car to chum, behind: "What are you doing, Jim?" Jim: "Reading JOHN BULL." Driver: "I wish JOHN BULL would get us out of this (so-and-so) trouble." The driver of the other car overhears; he is a reader of this journal, and has a letter from us in his pocket. Producing and showing this, he says to the astonished motorist, "Let us see what JOHN BULL can do for you!" It was an intricate job, but he set that car going in twenty minutes. Moral: Aren't our readers among the best?

Belgravian "Blacklegs."

"A Sufferer" asks whether, "in view of the hundreds of girls and boys now out of work in the cinema and theatrical professions," it is fair play for aristocratic men and women "who have or should have quite enough to live on," to take away their bread and butter by crowding the stage—"in most cases for the mere fun of the thing." There is a certain sort of blacklegging about it, undoubtedly, but this is a free country, and as long as producers and managers encourage Lady Clara Vere de Vere and the Hon. Algernon Chormondeley Dontcherknow, they are likely to seek the limelight to pass the time away.

A Big Prize.

This week the First Prize in our "Bullets" Competition has been increased to £500. A handsome New Year's present!

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

SIR,—What a really fine young fellow you are! It instinctively goes against my grain to pay compliments to princes, but you have such a way with you, and are above all such a worker, that I cannot refrain from respectfully tendering my heartiest felicitations. Sitting by you the other night at a Hospital Festival Dinner—the third function of the kind, by the way, over which you had presided during the week—I was struck with the rapid progress you are making both as a public speaker and a man of affairs, and I predict that when the time comes for you to assume the reins of Empire sovereignty, you will be a worthy successor of both your present illustrious father and the ever-revered Edward the Peace-maker.

JOHN BULL.

To the Hon. Mr. Justice Rowlatt.

MY LORD,—I was extremely interested in the advice you recently tendered to the defendant in a breach of promise action at Birmingham. "It is all very well," you admonished the young man, "to say that your affection cooled, but you should not allow it to get hot unless you can keep it hot." The words have a homely ring, and I dare say were far more comforting to the defendant than the £20 damages he ultimately had to pay—but, having consulted one or two young people who know "what's what" in matters of this kind, I am told that your sage counsel doesn't help them any. Love, they tell me, is a queer sort of complaint, and it is quite possible to be up to your neck in it for a week-end or so, and to suffer a horrible slump before the following Sunday. I submit the foregoing in case you may be disposed to offer any further observations on the subject before the Christmas holidays. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. E. Shortt, M.P.

DEAR HOME SECRETARY,—Having done my best to ward off the perils of alien immigration, I am alarmed at the extent to which Naturalisation Certificates are being granted, often in circumstances of strong suspicion. On reference to the *London Gazette*, I find that the list for the month of November includes 15 Germans, 4 Austrians, 2 Hungarians and as many as 107 Russians; and, when every allowance is made for the fact that a large proportion of these candidates have served with His Majesty's Forces during the war, it is not easy to justify such wholesale additions to the ranks of British citizenship. Even if the objection be waived in the case of enemy aliens who have served in the British Army, there are cases of Germans within the month named which do not fall within this category, and which demand further explanation. What have you to say?

JOHN BULL.

To Capt. J. Boyd-Carpenter, Onslow Gardens, S.W., and Capt. Ronald Kerr, The Avenue, Egham.

GENTLEMEN,—I see that in an action between you two the other day at the Chertsey County Court, the learned Judge offered the opinion that "grievous perjury had been committed on one side or the other"—so that he was "quite unable to decide on which side the truth lay." This was an extremely grave reflection upon one of two persons holding His Majesty's Commission, and I dare say both of you are very upset about it—although really you were asking for trouble. It is not at all the thing for gentlemen of your position to parade your differences in the County Court; and, although it is not suggested that you were both telling lies, I really haven't a scrap of sympathy with either of you. So that is that. JOHN BULL.

To H. W. Drummond, Esq., Chairman, London and South-Western Railway Co.

DEAR SIR,—One of my readers is very sad and very indignant concerning your line, and I am sorely afraid he is not alone in his agony of mind. Here are two of his pen-pictures:—"This morning I went to catch the 8.55 from Richmond. At 9.20 the 8.55 came in! . . . This night, going to Waterloo for the 6.16 I found hundreds on the platform, but no train till 25 minutes after the appointed time. And there were 22 people in the carriage I was pushed into!" I do not know what the British public has done to deserve this—but I do know that a Railway Company, to be up-to-date, should at least be up to time. JOHN BULL.

To George Greenwood, Dockyard Labourer, Portsmouth.

BRUTAL FATHER,—I hardly know which calls for the sterner condemnation—your shocking cruelty to your seven-year-old child or the disgraceful leniency of the Portsmouth Magistrates who let you off with a fine of £1. It appears that to "punish" the child you snatched a poker hot from the fire and drew the poor mite's hands across it, burning them back and front. No wonder you said you would remember this piece of savage brutality against your own defenceless child until the day of your death. If you have any decency about you at all, you would remember it with scalding remorse and biting shame. It will be hard for the poor child ever to forget or forgive. JOHN BULL.

To R. C. Norman, Esq., J.P., Chairman, London County Council.

SIR, I am glad to see that your Council has approved the suggestion that the proprietors of touring companies should be licensed in the same way as theatrical agents, a recommendation to this effect having been forwarded to the Home Secretary. This decision is especially gratifying to me, seeing that I was among the first to advance the suggestion and to ventilate the scandal it is intended to remedy. Meanwhile there is a good deal to be said for the hint thrown out by one of your members, that a sound way of dealing with the "bogus manager" would be "not to allow him to take out a company until he had banked the salaries." The matter is one upon which you should confer with the Actors' Association, with a view to suitable action. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Foord, Board of Guardians, Hastings.

DEAR SIR,—I have heard of men hanging their boots on the hat-rack and going to bed in their hats, and while I hope you have never been one of them, the fact of your confessing at the meeting of the Guardians that if you had a glass of beer you would possibly want a gallon, arouses in me alarming suspicions. That said, I can detect no reason in the logic of your Pussyfoot stunt why you, and the other conscientious objectors who voted with you, should deprive those inmates of the workhouse who prefer it with the one glass of ale which Alderman Ball proposed they should have at their Christmas dinner. I am without information whether your supporters have also been permanently saved from the insatiable demands of an unquenchable thirst, or whether they propose to quaff in their own homes at Christmastide the alcoholic cheer they deny to others. Please inform me about this, likewise where they propose to get the whisky, if any. Hoping the balloon juice will not blow you up, and wishing you a merry Christmas. JOHN BULL.

To Parish Councillor Hunt, Merstham, Surrey.

DEAR COUNCILLOR,—The parishioners of Merstham must be proud of you. I can see them falling over one another to vote for you when next you put up for election. Your suggestions are too brilliant for words. Asked by a brother councillor where an ex-soldier, who lost two limbs in the war and who was threatened with ejectment from his cottage on the Nethern Asylum estate should go to, you replied: "To the Union." Noble man! That's the stuff to give the gallant fellows who lost limbs in your defence! Live up to your name, Hunt, and hound them into the Workhouse! But, speaking strictly between ourselves, I think *you* should be hounded out of Merstham. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. E. C. King, Folkestone Road, Walthamstow, E.

SIR,—I see that you have failed in a petition for divorce from your wife, and really I am bound to say that such methods as you adopted did not deserve to succeed. In fact, I agree with all that was said by the learned Judge as to the gross impropriety of setting a nine-year-old child to spy upon her mother, and take note of conversations that might serve your purposes. It was surely bad enough for this poor little girl to be the witness of your constant matrimonial bickerings, without having her mind poisoned in this way, at an age when she should know nothing of life but its joy and sunshine. I am afraid that, as a father, you are not quite up to the regulation pattern, although if you can grow a bit of sense you may improve. JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Naval and Military Pensions Local Committee, Stafford.

SIR,—Your august body on December 3rd published an advertisement announcing that it intends to proceed to the appointment of a Secretary, and that "applications must be delivered not later than 1st December, 1919" to you. I have to request that you will state without delay what the deuce you are driving at. I am unwilling on sight, sir, to regard it as a common or garden example of the splendid ability of public bodies to squander public money, or even as a brilliant scheme whereby a craven Conchy, a cradled Cuthbert, or a nepotic nondescript is to be carefully cushioned in a cosy corner. For this reason your official explanation is hereby immediately desired.

JOHN BULL.

To the Magistrates, Croydon.

GENTLEMEN,—I know not which, or how many, of you heard that pony-beating case; I have nothing before me to show. All I know is that you let off those two men, George Lynch, of Bynes Road, and Charles Bush, of Church Road, with a paltry fine in spite of most conclusive evidence of their shocking cruelty. While the pony was on the ground Lynch "held its head and beat it with either a stick or the butt-end of a whip," while Bush beat the moaning, defenceless creature from the cart. The Bench "thanked the two lady witnesses for coming forward," and then charged the men, one 40s. and the other 20s. The pony, I suppose, remains in their charge, to go through a similar or worse experience when nobody is looking. I have scarcely words for such preposterous leniency. It is the outstanding scandal of the Courts. How long it will remain so I have no means of knowing; but as long as it *does* remain, the assumed protection under the law of animals against cruelty will be a mockery and a myth. JOHN BULL.

FOOLING THE INVENTOR.

STRANGE SPOOF BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

A. Astling, of Pitsmoor, Sheffield, late of R.F.A., invented a fuse setter, and offered it to the Ministry of Munitions in 1917. On account of a flaw it was rejected in October of the same year. Having perfected his invention, on the suggestion of the Ministry, he again offered it to them. On their advice, and apparently with their financial assistance, he patented it, and then assigned it to the War Secretary. On 1st February, 1919, he had this letter: "I am directed by the Controller of Munitions Inventions to inform you that it is understood that this fuse-setter has been adopted for Service use. Should you desire to apply for an award in this connection, application should be made to this Department, when the matter will receive consideration." This is signed "H. Spencer, Lt.-Co." Astling wrote to the Ministry, as suggested, for the golden reward of his persistent efforts. Possibly he dreamed dreams and saw visions of comparative wealth. But on 24th June they vanished into thin air. "With reference to your letter dated 31st March, 1919, and previous correspondence regarding hand fuse-setter," wrote Major W. H. D. Clark, "I have to inform you that it has now been ascertained that your design of fuse-setter as submitted to this Department has not been adopted, and consequently it is regretted that the question of granting you a reward cannot be considered. The letter No. M.I.D. R.2328 addressed to you on February 1st, 1919, from this Department"—the letter of the gallant Colonel aforesaid—"was written under a misapprehension, and it is regretted that you should have erroneously been led to believe that the pattern adopted was similar to the fuse-setter designed by you." Thus Astling gets no reward. In a word, he is in the cart. All he knows is that his invention was improved and patented at the Ministry's suggestion, and that they led him to believe that it had been adopted for Service and that he would receive a reward if he applied for it. Somehow, he has been made the fool for the company. He is the mug of the Ministry.

INSULT TO AN EX-SAILOR.

IMPERTINENCE FROM PALL MALL.

On November 18th the following advertisement appeared: "LAD WANTED for chambers. Live in and make himself generally useful.—Apply 14, Pall-mall, S.W.1." A youth of 19, recently demobilised from the Navy, applied for the post in the following terms: "Dear Sir or Madam,—I have seen your ad., and if circumstances permit should like to fill the vacancy. Would you therefore acquaint me with particulars regarding wages, etc. I have just been discharged from the Royal Navy, in which I served as an Officer's Steward, and am 19 years of age. Yours faithfully . . ." So polite and straightforward an application, if answered at all, might at least have been answered courteously. But it was not. The letter of application was returned, together with its envelope, with the words "circumstances" . . . "Royal Navy" . . . "Officer's" . . . and "faithfully" doubly underlined, and the following stupidities scrawled on a vacant space: "hope your not offend or pleased yours Royal Navy. Happy Christmas." Overleaf was scribbled a rough sketch of a man-o'-warsman, under the heading: "The *Royal* Navy." This piece of gratuitous impertinence was perpetrated, one might think, either by a Hun underling with a spite against the British Navy, or by a cook's scullion trying to be funny. Whoever at 14, Pall Mall, inserted the advertisement can see the original letter, with its insulting additions, by applying at the office of this journal—when he might identify the handwriting of the idiot, or worse, who has brought discredit upon him (the advertiser) by sneering at a British sailor.

Another little talk about

SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE

Dear People,

I've got a surprise for you. Sharp's of Toffytown—Maidstone *they* call it—are so gratified at the instant success of their latest super-sweet that they have had special tins made for SHARP'S SUPER-KREEM TOFFEE. Jolly nice 'stunt' I call it, because you are absolutely sure of *everything* then, aren't you? Popularity certainly does make a difference, doesn't it? The facts of the case are this:—When you buy it in tins you are always sure it will make a more acceptable present, and you know it's in tip-top condition. A sporty offer, I call it.

Yours confectionally,

Sir Kreemy Knut

See that the word "SUPER-KREEM" is printed on the paper in which the Toffee is wrapped.

CHILBLAINS.

A SPEEDY AND CERTAIN CURE.

SUFFERERS ARE SURPRISED AND GRATIFIED AT THE PROMPT MANNER WITH WHICH GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT DRAWS OUT THE INFLAMMATION.

CHILBLAIN SUFFERERS who give Grasshopper Ointment a trial are surprised and pleased at the promptitude with which it draws out the inflammation, stops the pain and itching, and cures the 'blains. We do not hesitate to assert that no other remedy for chilblains acts with such speed and effectiveness. One or two applications of Grasshopper are generally sufficient to cure the worst and most painful case of chilblains. If during the cold weather you suffer from chilblains, do not suffer any longer, as one box of this 50-year-old chilblain cure will be sufficient to give you relief. Grasshopper's power of drawing out inflammation and impurities from the blood renders it a certain cure for most troubles which afflict the feet. For treating bunions, inflamed corns and swollen and sore feet, Grasshopper will be found especially valuable. Just give it a trial and see. You are urged to refuse all substitutes and imitations. GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT may be had of Timothy White's and other Stores and Chemists at 1/3 a box, or direct, post free, from J. B. Albert and Co., 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

TIPS OR BRIBES?

LIFTING THE CURTAIN IN CURTAIN ROAD.

The furniture trade in London are greatly upset over the tipping system enforced by railway carmen and others. The centre of the trade is Curtain Road, Shoreditch. They cannot get their goods carried to the local railway depot without bribing the carmen, who, they assert, rake in more money for tips than they take in wages, which are not low. Firms actually have to compete, for the one paying the biggest bribe gets the best service. A tradesman in despair, who carts his own goods to the depot, has them refused. A railway carman may take the packages to the station, and bring them back again. The inference is that the tip was too small. The manufacturers are afraid to say much, for they fear that a strong personal protest would mean a total boycott. The trader has to dip deep into his pocket, or find his goods lying in his warehouse for weeks and months, dislocating business and delaying production. We know that shifting furniture in crates is heavy and strenuous work, and the carmen who have to handle such goods is entitled to something more than a thank-you. But Curtain Road complains of extortion that cripples trade—which is quite another affair.

YELLOW FRIGHTENERS.

OLD FAKEMENT IN A NEW FORM.

We have recently come upon a yellow variant of the "blue frightener," issued by E. Browning, Gresham House, London, E.C. It is headed, "Final Notice"; in small letters follows: "before proceeding in the —" (very large type) COUNTY COURTS for the Recovery of Small Debts." The document proceeds: "I Hereby Give You Notice that unless the sum £—— . . . is paid on or before . . . I shall proceed against you. . . . ." A footnote is rather like one clause of a genuine summons:—"If you deem it advisable to pay before going into Court bring this Notice with you." The whole thing is obviously designed to look like a genuine official paper. E. Browning offers to sell the things at 3s. 6d. a hundred to people who want employment, to be re-sold to tradesmen for "whatever price you can get," averring that he has "made from £10 to £20 per week" by selling the discreditable things. If that is true, it is a wonder he should invite others to share his El Dorado for 3s. 6d.

OUR CHRISTMAS POOR FUND.

YULETIDE GIFTS FOR THE LONDON POOR.

For some years past it has been our habit to appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, during the Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the East-end poor. Our system has been to apply money entrusted to us in the purchase of meat, bread, groceries, coal, etc., by means of orders upon local tradesmen, thus enabling the recipients to enjoy the food and fuel and other comforts in their own homes, with their families as we are sure our readers desire.

We also appeal for left-off and unwanted clothing of all shapes and sizes. A band of willing workers will carefully sort the articles into suitable lots. Toys, too—however old—are always welcome for the little ones, and the same remark applies to oranges, sweets, crackers—in short, to anything likely to bring a little happiness and sunshine during Christmas time into the homes of the poor.

Every subscription and gift will be gratefully received, and acknowledged.

Subscriptions should be forwarded direct to our Offices, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2., but all parcels of goods, etc., should be sent to the JOHN BULL Depot, 25, Church Road, Homerton, E.9. *Please* help us.

For acknowledgments, see page 18.

"HOW TO EARN £100 A WEEK NET."

OUR OPINION OF AN ADVERTISEMENT AND OUR VIEWS OF THE ADVERTISER.

WHO is Billington, and what is he that so many of our readers write asking about him? Perhaps it would be fairer to say that their queries concern his business. He has a great idea, so he shouts to all the world that can be reached through the London and Provincial Press. It is so great and so wonderful that he is spending much money to proclaim the gospel of £100 a week, earned out of a £10 investment in the idea. Mr. J. Billington is only the agent, although the principal is also of the same address, in Eastcheap, London, E.C. It is fair to Mr. Billington to make that clear, and we do so at the risk of offending the gentleman behind the scenes, in other words, "Shrapnel & Co."

Now, in these days, when rents and rates are high, and, what is more, a good many decent fellows returned from the war are out of employment, a very special obligation rests upon advertisers not to overstate the value of their wares, and certainly not to put at too high a figure the worth of an idea. When scores of our readers ask our opinion and advice on Mr. Billington's alluring advertisement, we think it our duty—seeing what JOHN BULL stands for—to give it, and we say frankly that we would not give twopence for the Billington-cum-Shrapnel scheme. Wouldn't an advertisement in these terms attract anyone?

> HOW TO EARN £100 A WEEK NET.
>
> The advertiser by personal effort and strict attention to business has now succeeded in earning the above sum in a business of a permanent and congenial nature
>
> REQUIRING VERY SMALL CAPITAL.
>
> It is of world-wide importance and only requires a person of energy and intelligence who would assiduously devote himself to it assisted by a VERY SMALL STAFF.
>
> Any person desiring to know the details of the means by which these results are being achieved is invited to write for same enclosing the sum of
>
> £10.
>
> J. Billington, Agent for Advertiser, 31, Eastcheap, London, E.C.

Well, we have made every inquiry, and we say unhesitatingly that it is the kind of advertisement which should not be issued. The one from which we quote appeared in a Liverpool paper. Others, different in form, which are appearing in the London and Provincial Press make the same alluring offer, and we do not hesitate to say an offer which stimulates high hopes and—consequent sad disappointment. For what is this business, non-speculative and of a permanent and congenial nature, which in its idea form is worth a tenner? It is not a business at all. It is a suggestion of how you may do the business of a transport agent. What you have to do is to find people who have steam wagons, petrol lorries, horses and vans, and having arranged with them rates of transport, get in touch with large wholesale firms and arrange terms on which you are prepared to undertake the delivery of their goods.

This is a non-speculative business, according to the advertisement. But when you come to inquire you are told that the "only expenditure that is necessary is Rent of a Small Office, say, £10 per annum, office furniture, say £35 (we dare say!), Telephone"—oh! the £10 circular forgets to mention the cost of the telephone. That, of course, might depend upon how busy you were, and whether you had an all-in service or put the coppers in the slot. We may be quite prepared to accept the statements, from 31 Eastcheap, of the bestower of this beneficent idea for £10, and we do not for a moment question the *bona-fides* of Mr. F. J. East, Solicitor, of Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C., or of the Chartered Accountants, Messrs. J. Dix, Lewis, Cæsar & Co., whose names are put forward in a private and confidential circular by Mr. Billington as voucher for the "facts in the advertisement" so widely circulated. Whether "How to earn £100 a week net" is one of the facts in the advertisement, we cannot say. But we notice that in the £10 worth of information Mr. Shrapnel goes no farther than to declare that "by personal effort and strict attention to details," he has developed a business which is at present yielding at least £20 net profit per week. Perhaps he is hoping that by effort and attention he will reach that £100 net a week which is set forth in such large and alluring letters.

Let this further be said: that the Principal having more business than he can do, is "opposed to the idea of undertaking more than he can personally carry out," and obligingly hands on the idea for the small fee of £10. Since we have been in communication with the Principal, he sent us a letter giving the assurance that all who remit the money receive an undertaking that "in the event of these particulars not being of sufficient value in your estimation for the £10 paid," the money will be returned on receipt of a letter saying that details have not been divulged. Well, we have not divulged the details. But we take upon ourselves the responsibility of saying to Mr. Billington—who is the managing clerk of the gentleman behind the scenes—that we do not consider it kindly to hold out hope of earning £100 net per week on such flimsy-whimsy grounds, and we recommend his employer to stick to the business he evidently understands—and be content with the £20 a week he declares he earns by it.

CIVIL SERVICE SNOBBERY.

EX-SERVICE CANDIDATES UNFAIRLY PENALISED.

An ex-soldier, bitterly disappointed at his failure to obtain a berth in the Civil Service for which upon general grounds he appears to be excellently qualified, calls our attention to a clause in the Regulations which is an obstacle in the way of many deserving candidates. It is Clause 4 of the Temporary Regulations for the filling of Junior Appointments (Intermediate Class) in the Home Civil Service, the wording to which exception is taken being as follows:—

> Candidates must satisfy the Commissioners that they have received whole-time continuous and systematic education until at least the age of 18.

Surely this is a most unfair and unreasonable requirement, calculated to defeat the declared intention of the Civil Service Commissioners to give the "preference to Candidates who are debarred from active employment by a physical impairment due to the war." What proportion of ex-Service candidates, even in the commissioned ranks, were at school continuously till the age of 18? Moreover the requirement is quite unnecessary, the appointments in question not being of a nature to call for the possession of what is usually known as "higher education." Our correspondent's desire, as we understand, was to obtain an examinership in the Customs and Excise Department, and his sense of injury arises from the fact that, although not yet 21 years of age, he has been thrown on his own resources for the last five years, owing to the sudden death of his father in 1914. That he could pass any reasonable educational test is beyond question; but that after incurring partial disablement in the service of his country he should be "turned down" through his inability to comply with a purely arbitrary standard of this sort, is a distinct hardship calling for prompt redress.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' FUND.

COMMITTEE PUZZLED WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

The most recent Report on the administration of the National Relief Fund—best known under its original title of the Prince of Wales' Fund—makes interesting reading, its outstanding announcement being that on June 30th last there was a balance in hand of £2,495,334. On this head we are vaguely informed that, although the Central Committee have received as many as four careful reports on the situation, they are "not yet in a position to determine the final allocation of the balance"; indeed, from the tone of their observations, it might almost be imagined that there was no serious distress in any corner of the kingdom to call for the further exercise of public philanthropy. Apparently, the Committee have never heard of the pitiable condition of many air-raid victims, of the niggardly treatment of injured munition workers, of the heart-breaking plight of the poor Old Age Pensioners, or any other of the thousand-and-one cases of hardship to which our columns have borne witness from time to time. It is somewhat puzzling, too, to observe that grants to local committees for naval and military relief during the war and the first six months of the Armistice period amounted to £358,000 for England and Wales, while for the whole of Scotland the figure was a mere £122 10s. 8d. Turning to the account of sums expended upon the relief of civil distress, we find that of a total of some £600,000 expended in the British Isles, as much as £47,150 went to the Isle of Man! That the island as a holiday centre was hard hit by the war we are well aware; but, recalling the unrelieved privations of some of our East Coast towns, we are curious to know upon what basis the Committee of the National Relief Fund have apportioned the distribution of grants.

A STOLEN MOTOR-CAR.

GROSS ANOMALY OF SCOTTISH LAW.

Occasionally fraud borrows the mantle of the law, as is seen in the following case, reported from Edinburgh, relating to the sale of a motor-car. It appears that, in July last, a visitor at the Ivanhoe Hotel, Glasgow, called and inspected a touring car at the garage of the Caly Motor Company, Irvine, agreed to purchase it, and tendered in payment a worthless cheque for £420, which was accepted by the proprietors and subsequently dishonoured. Adding insult to injury, the dishonest purchaser, before removing the car, demanded and received a "luckspenny" of 10s. The next that was heard of the stolen vehicle was when it was listed for sale by an Edinburgh firm, by whom it had apparently been purchased in good faith for £200, though it was now advertised at a much higher figure. It was evident, therefore, that both the Caly Motor Co. as the original vendors, and the Edinburgh firm as purchasers in good faith, had been badly tricked, and equity might have suggested that they should divide the loss. It is a wholesome principle of English law that a thief can give no better title to property—even for honest value paid—than that which he himself possesses; and, had these transactions taken place south of the Tweed, the original owners of the car would have been entitled to reclaim their property without reference to the later transfer. It appears, however, that under the Law of Scotland the position is entirely different, and although the victims of the theft have made a generous bid for the recovery of their property, the Edinburgh firm decline to part with it, being evidently determined to dispose of it in the ordinary course of business, without reference to its original ownership. Scottish Law in this particular at any rate is open to serious criticism.

BEST-PAID OVERTIME IN THE WORLD.

£1,000 MADE IN A FEW WEEKS.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYBODY.

The enormous possibilities of "overtime" money-making have never been better illustrated than to-day.

Men and women everywhere are making money "hand over fist" as the result of a small amount of overtime work. The reports given below confirm this statement and show that these opportunities of extending one's income are confined to no class, but are open to all.

An outstanding instance is supplied in the following extract from a remarkable letter recently received by the Pelman Institute:—

"I need only say that I have cleared over one thousand pounds from an idea *which materialised by the Pelman methods*. This will quadruple itself during this year, so you will understand, better than I can write it, the gratitude I feel towards the Pelman Institute."

Clerks, Salesmen, Managers, Directors, Artisans, Engineers, Journalists, Doctors, Lawyers, Women Clerks, Typists, Secretaries, Teachers—there is plain and incontestable evidence from all of these.

The facts are given briefly below and should be read with care by everybody who is desirous of increasing his or her income.

We repeat—there is Opportunity for everyone who is prepared to put in a little "overtime" for the purpose of making more money and getting a better footing in the world of business.

Study the facts. It is not a question of theory or experiment, but of facts which are, every day, being proved up to the hilt. Study the facts and realise what wonderful possibilities await you, wherever you are and whatever you may be doing.

REMARKABLE EVIDENCE.

Letters from all classes of "overtime" workers.

By devoting a little "overtime"—say half-an hour each evening—to a careful study of the famous "little grey books" in which the principles of Pelmanism are taught, thousands upon thousands of men and women in all grades of life and in every business and profession have proved that money-making is by no means difficult.

Pelmanism is to-day a "household word," and half a million people have adopted it; but there are still many who do not realise that Pelmanism can be as valuable to them as to "the other man."

That is the point. There is no man or woman yet who, having attentively studied and completed the Pelman Course, has failed to benefit; some benefit in one direction, some in another; but ALL benefit!

Most of those enrolling do so, with the avowed object of increasing their incomes. That they achieve their object is unequivocally proved by the following selection of representative letters from Pelmanists.

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF.

Read these letters! Note the diversity of occupations represented and note the unanimity with which they all agree that Pelmanism has paid them—and paid them handsomely.

Can you afford to pass by such a remarkable chance of reaching success? Do you know of any other plan by which you can so surely and so quickly attain success? If you do—you should adopt it! If not, then you certainly ought to investigate Pelmanism for yourself. It will not cost you a penny piece (except a postage stamp) and you incur no obligation. You will not be urged to enrol for a Course, but you will be given every opportunity to make a thorough investigation. You can ask as many questions as you like—either by post or in a personal interview by calling—and a full and frank answer will be given.

First of all, then, read these letters—the independent testimony of those who KNOW what Pelmanism does.

A Secretary writes:—
"Shortly after I finished my Pelman Course, the opportunity came. . . . I took it, and to-day I am earning nearly four times my pre-war income."

A Schoolmaster writes:—
"My salary is nearly doubled within a year of commencing your Course, and I need not add that my efficiency as a teacher is very greatly improved."

A Managing Director writes:—
"My income is over £1,200 a year more—thanks entirely to the sound practical teaching of Pelmanism."

A Commission Agent writes:—
"I am doing big business, and I give many thanks to the Pelman Course. It has been a very profitable investment."

An Analytical Chemist writes:—
"It was a long time before I was convinced that Pelmanism was not a cleverly advertised fraud, but I found that the apparently exaggerated claims of the Pelman Institute could be realised in me or in anyone else. I have felt its benefit ever since."

A Clerk writes:—
"I am deeply indebted to the Pelman Institute as, since taking up the Course, I have more than trebled my income, which is due solely to your teaching."

A Manager writes:—
"If ever anyone did a good stroke of business for himself, I certainly did in taking the Pelman Course. I can safely say that my recent promotion to the position of manager was entirely due to Pelmanism."

PELMAN PIE

Richest and Fruitiest of all "Pies"

NOW ON SALE

At all Bookstalls 2/6

A Salesman writes:—
"I have gained an increase of £145 in salary, due to my Pelman training."

A Teacher writes:—
"After completing the Pelman Course I received a double increment, which was quite unexpected, as I had just previously reached the maximum for my position!"

A Sanitary Inspector writes:—
"I benefited greatly in many ways by Pelmanism. I have had my salary increased 75 per cent., and a further increase is coming in another month."

A Barrister writes:—
"I repeat how very glad I am that I took the Course. Every day, in an infinite number of ways, I am reminded of the advantages it has conferred. It has quickened the pulse of my vitality."

A Boilermaker writes:—
"When I enrolled for the Pelman Course I wondered what I was going to get for my money; but I can say with pride it was the best investment I ever made."

An Entertainer writes:—
"I have gained tremendously (by Pelmanism). . . . I have earned and gained more cash since I took the Course than during any previous period of the same time."

An Electrician writes:—
"I have derived great assistance from Pelmanism, and the most concrete sign is that I have received a 40 per cent. increase."

An Insurance Agent writes:—
"I did a volume of business in three months equal to that done by the leader for my firm in the whole twelve months of last year."

A Lady Clerk writes:—
"My salary was increased by £52 in about nine months. It may not seem much to you, but I never have had such a large increase before."

An Engineer writes:—
"I have benefited very greatly by Pelmanism, having just recently received a rise in salary of £200 a year, bringing me up to £550—a figure undreamt of a year or so ago. I consider that the Pelman Course is, from the standpoint of money alone, a most profitable investment, and from the intellectual standpoint a veritable resurrection of the mind."

A Printer's Manager writes:—
"For 22 years I was in a rut, and simply one of the crowd. Before finishing my Pelman Course things began to change, and . . . I have been offered (and have accepted) the post of manager of . . . one of the largest and best-equipped works of the country."

An Advertising Agent writes:—
"From £150 my yearly income has increased to nearly £1,500. That is what Pelmanism has done for me. How can people hesitate to take this splendid training?"

A Doctor writes:—
"As a result of my study of the Pelman Course I have been able to place my practice on a satisfactory basis."

IMMEDIATE BENEFIT.

"Benefit," says *Truth*, "is derived from the very first," and this is the general experience of the vast majority of the students. Almost before they are aware of it the brain is being set methodically to work on the lines which will bring out its full capacity.

OVER 500,000 MEN AND WOMEN.

The Pelman Course has already been followed by over 500,000 men and women. It is directed through the post and is simple to follow. It takes up very little time. It involves no hard study. It can be practised anywhere—at home, in the office, in the train, in spare moments during the day. And yet in quite a short time it has the effect of developing the mind, just as physical exercises develop the muscles, of increasing your personal efficiency, and thus doubling your all-round capacity and income-earning power.

A complete description of the Pelman Course is given in "Mind and Memory," a free copy of which, together with a reprint of *Truth's* famous Report on Pelmanism, and special reduced-fee enrolment form for the complete Course will be sent post free to all readers of JOHN BULL who apply upon the coupon printed below or by postcard to the Pelman Institute, 15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

Overseas Addresses.—46-48, *Market Street, Melbourne; Temple Building, Toronto; Club Arcade, Durban; Chowpatti, Sea Face, Bombay.*

Send this coupon—or a postcard—or call to-day.

To the PELMAN INSTITUTE,
15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

Sir,—Please send me, gratis and post free, a copy of the book, "Mind and Memory," a copy of *Truth's* latest Report, and particulars of the Offer entitling me to take the Pelman Course on reduced terms.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS CONFIDENTIAL.

THE MODERN TOWER OF BABEL—

—And The Confusion Of Tongues.

PROTECTING THE PROFITEER.

VENTNOR TRIBUNAL ON THE VAPID GIGGLE.

It is evidently the opinion of the Ventnor Anti-Profiteering Committee that they are called to business to laugh complaints out of Court. Take as a criterion the way they acted in the Frampton case. In any event, the complainant could not have been treated with any more impropriety and the consuming public with less justice if the Committee had grinned at him through horse collars. He said his wife sent a maid to the shop of this tradesman Frampton for plaice. "The fishmonger suggested to the girl," he avers, "that she should take some prawns, and he gave her a quantity (less than half-a-pint) of common shrimps. For the meagre collection—which we did not even order—the fishmonger had the audacity to charge half-a-crown." That is the complaint, and as a complaint it is legitimate. The facts may be disputable. The fishmonger, instead of ladling out half-a-pint of common shrimps may have laboriously counted out at 2d. apiece a number of the finest and most delicate examples of his *Palaemon squilla*, *Pandalas annulicornis*, and *Hippolyte spinus*, fit to grace the table of a Lucullus. On the other hand, if he did sell common shrimps as prawns and charge 2s. 6d. for half-a-pint of them, it was for the Committee to deal with him. What they did, apparently, was to treat the complaint as if it were a tremendous joke, laugh it out of judicial consideration, and refuse to take action. There was a *prima facie* case for an answer on the part of Frampton, and this it was and is their business to procure—unless, that is, the Ventnor Anti-Profiteering Committee are in fact selected to perpetuate profiteering—a suspicion widely held in regard to other of these bodies.

"WILL YOU WALK INTO MY PARLOUR?"

ARTFUL BLANDISHMENTS OF IMPECUNIOUS HUNS.

The fact that the rate of exchange with Germany is heavily in this country's favour has suggested to certain Hun adventurers an opportunity of profiting by the hated Britisher. The *modus operandi* varies, an interesting example being furnished by the experience of a Dublin reader, whose wife recently received an extremely cordial letter from a former friend who had married a German and settled down in Hunland. After a few tender reminiscences of old days in England, the writer—one Fraulein May Schmittman, of Dr. Hammacherstr, 28, Duisburg, Ruhrort—who declared herself more than satisfied with her matrimonial bargain, came to business in the following terms:—

> I wonder if you would like to invest a little money in Germany; it is just now a splendid investment while the English money is worth seven times as much as the German. I can win in a few days . . . ten per cent. or what interest you ask or wish, and pay you back your money if you wish in a few weeks, without any fear of loss . . . With English money it is impossible to lose . . . It is really the chance of a lifetime; had I had English money here this last year, I should now have had a fortune. It is really a splendid chance for English people, and does seem a pity to miss it . . . I would be glad if you would care to trust me with a little money; you need not have any fear of loss and can make your own terms.

From the bland assurance with which this request is advanced by a woman of English birth, it must be inferred that Teutonic impudence is catching. However, our Irish friend "likes not the security," and in forwarding us the letter indulges in some reflections upon the Government's treatment of enemy aliens which should cause burning ears in Whitehall.

A MOTHER OF MEN.

AFFECTIONATE TRIBUTE TO A "DEAR LADY."

Many Canadian soldiers who have been mothered by the "Little English Mother," of Miles Platting, will be touched by the tribute which one of their comrades pays to her. Throughout the war her home has been open for any Canadian soldier who wished to spend a leave in Manchester. Her own son was killed in 1916, and "immediately she received the news she placed his bed at the disposal of any Canadian boy passing through Manchester." Since her lad's death she has mothered 124 Canadian boys, and though she has taken pay for their board, she would never charge for the bed. So quietly has she taken care of them, the wild ones as well as the staid ones, that "no one will know all this dear lady has done." Says our informant: "Many of the boys have left their treasures and their money with her. At times she would lend them money, too. Nobody ever went to this dear English mother without having such help as they actually needed, and always good advice. If we were in trouble 'Mother' was the first we sought for help and comfort. We boys are thinking of clubbing together and bringing her over to Canada for a trip. She feels sort of lonely now that most of the boys have gone where I am going—way back home." In the meantime, it is suggested that the British Government should give her some honour. This is scarcely the way of the British Government. The Canadians have no honours to give, and indeed we imagine it is not honours Mrs. Bagshaw seeks. Her best reward is surely in the eyes of the boys of Canada whom she has loved and served so well, and whom she may soon join in the great Dominion across the Atlantic.

WILKINSON'S

"1920" MODEL SAFETY SHAVER

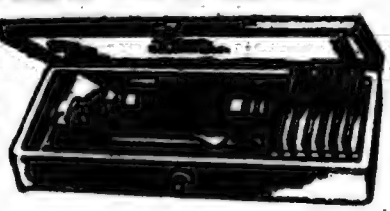
Is the shaver with the "BIG FOUR" Features, so designed to give you perfect comfort, so built to give you a perfect shave.

WHY TEAR YOUR SKIN WITH A THIN WAFER BLADE WHEN YOU CAN USE A SAFETY SHAVER WITH A

REAL LASTING, EDGE RETAINING, COMFORT MAINTAINING SOLID BLADE. Specially adapted to strong beards and sensitive skins.

The set complete, with 7 solid blades and stropping handle in neat leather case.

PRICE 30/-



Economy

Do not throw away these blades, they last you for ALL TIME.

LONDON MADE.

Each blade etched with the day of the week.

The "BIG FOUR" Features:

1.—An adjustable head, which enables the shaver to use the blades to suit his own style. Easily adjusted and clamped.
2.—A revolving guard which feeds the lather on to the cutting edge of the blade, and prevents the hair from clogging the shaver.
3.—A solid blade of the finest steel. A blade with a power behind its edge. A blade that *can* be hardened and tempered.
4.—A thumb-press to instantly permit the removal of the blade for cleaning. No Muss. No Cut Fingers.

WILKINSON'S—The RECOGNISED HOUSE FOR RAZORS —8/6, 10/6, 12/6—and Stropping Machines—18/6.

The WILKINSON SWORD Co., Ltd., 53, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1

Gun, Sword & Equipment Makers, Razor Manufacturers.

Managing Director: T. H. RANDOLPH. Works: ACTON, W. 3.

A Handsome Gift for "Everyone."

The popularity of a watch as a Christmas gift has become universal since the introduction of the Ingersoll Radiolite, the watch which shows the time in the dark. These watches meet the efficiency spirit of the times. Showing the time in the dark as well as in the light, they carry out to the full the purpose of a watch, giving accurate and dependable service day and night, year by year.

You can give Ingersoll Radiolites with confidence—every model is capable of a lifetime of reliable time-keeping service, always dependable and accurate.

There's an Ingersoll Model for everyone from 60/- down to 15/-.

Sold by high class Watch dealers throughout the Kingdom, but if your dealer cannot supply you any Ingersoll Model you wish will be sent post free upon receipt of price.

Illustrated Catalogue of the full line of Ingersoll Watches post free.

INGERSOLL WATCH CO., LTD.
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40/-

Ingersoll Waterbury Radiolite. Handsome thin watch, jewelled at balance.

Ingersoll Radiolite

GLOWS THE TIME IN THE DARK.

Give Your Boy

MECCANO

this Christmas

Every bright, eager boy in Britain wants Meccano. It is the thing they dream of. All boys love engineering. They want models that work—something they can take to pieces and build again. Meccano satisfies this desire in full.

Engineering for Boys

Meccano places in their hands a wonderful system of shining steel parts—Strips, Plates and Girders, Gear and Pully-wheels, Chains, Nuts and Bolts, with which they can build scores of fine working models — Cranes, Bridges, Trucks, Clocks, Motors, Looms, Searchlights.

Give your boy a Meccano Outfit to-day and let him share the fun.

Meccano Prices

No. 0 Outfit ..	6/-	No. 3 Outfit ..	30/-
No. 1 " ..	10/-	No. 4 " ..	50/-
No. 2 " ..	20/-	No. 5 " ..	70/-
No. 5 Presentation Outfit in Oak Cabinet..			100/-
No. 6 Presentation Outfit in Oak Cabinet..			180/-

FREE-Superb Book.
"MECCANO-LAND"

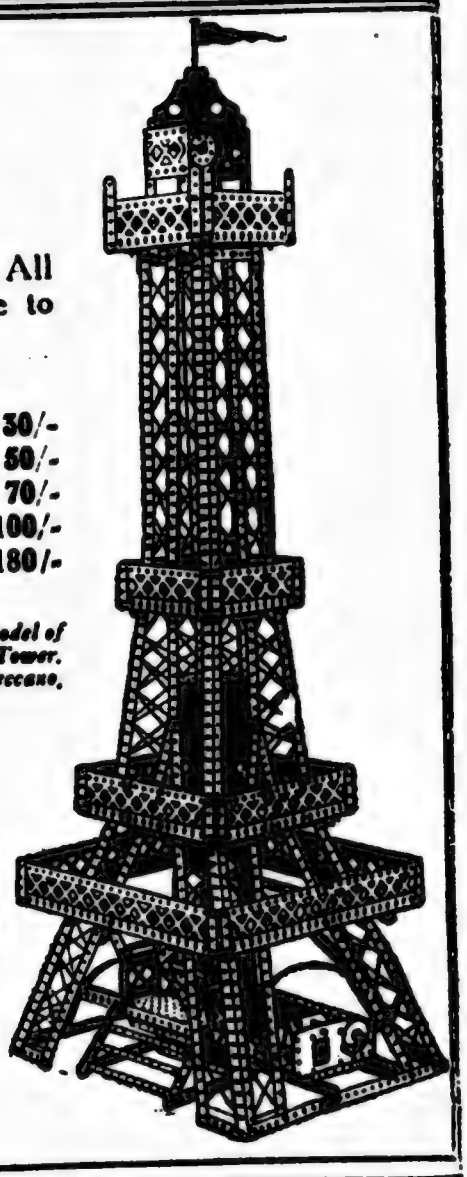
An absorbing story of a sunny country, inhabited only by happy boys. A copy will be posted to you when you have shown this advertisement to three chums, and sent us their names and addresses with your own. Put No. 22 after your name for reference.

Grand £200 Prize Competition.
Closing Date, 31st March, 1920.

We offer big money prizes for the best original models. No restriction or entrance fee. Open to all users of MECCANO. Ask your Toy-Dealer for particulars.

BRITISH MADE.

Look at this fine model of the Paris Eiffel Tower. I built it with Meccano.



MECCANO LIMITED:
Binns Road: Liverpool

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag" pages 22 and 23.

Government Inconsistency.

Instead of prohibiting an issue of Premium Bonds, where our capital would have come back to us with interest, the Government would have done better if they had prohibited at once the gambling for houses, which they close their eyes to. Our Service men, who *should* have the first right to a roof over their heads, are refused as tenants, in favour of others who can give a large bonus as key-money. This is really bribery in its worst form.—FLORENCE BURGESS, Haig Road, Plaistow.

Hint For the Labour Ministry.

The Ministry of Labour might arrange with the Post Office for an issue through the Labour Exchanges of envelopes, distinctively stamped, that applicants for work could send through the post free. Many poverty-stricken out-of-works depend on Press advertisements as their only hope of finding a job; and the postage, small item though it is, often bars him or her from applying for more than one situation a day, other likely openings being missed on the score of expense. G. W. HARRINGTON, Adys Road, East Dulwich.

Fair Fares.

During the war the Government increased railway fares by 50 per cent. in order to "discourage" railway travelling by the general public at a time when the railways were endeavouring, with depleted staffs, to cope with the enormous amount of work thrown upon them. That "discouragement" continues, with the result that the lines show an adverse balance, which has to be made good by a Government subsidy—from the pockets of the taxpayers. Give us fair fares and the railways will soon pay their way again. —H. GRAVES, Hartington Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

A "Striking" Question.

Who is profiteering in matches? Before the war we could buy good imported matches at 1½d. per dozen boxes. The price now for same quantity is 1s.! The Government tax is only 2½d. The cost price is now approximately 4d. per twelve boxes, and the tax of 2½d. added brings it to 6½d. The importers' present margin is therefore 5½d. against the ½d. of 1914, an increase by 1,100 per cent. to provide for an increase of wages, etc., of roughly 100 per cent. The home manufacturer is even doing better.—HERBERT BLOOMFIELD, Crempton St., Walworth.

Our Greatest Game.

Although football is generally recognised as our national sport, poor encouragement is given to our boys by the lack of accommodation in the public parks of some of our large cities for the "stripping" and dressing of the players. I have seen boys undress on wet—sometimes snow-covered—ground, and compelled to place their clothing in piles alongside the playing area, jeopardising their health by having to put on damp clothing after the match. This is now a municipal question, but it should be a national one.—DANIEL GILVEY, Mable's Villas, Holland Street, Hull.

Rifle Ranges.

Every town, large or small, should be provided with a rifle range—say, of 200 yards. The number of targets could be in proportion to population. There are plenty of rifles and ammunition, and plenty of ex-Service men who would be glad to keep their "eye in." Allotment of rifles would be of more use than allotment of tanks and German guns. A small charge could be made for ammunition. The ranges would afford grand sport and opportunities for inter-team competition, etc., while the training of our youth as marksmen would be of great value to the State. —H. CLIFTON, Hill Street, Newport, Mon.

Home-Grown Sugar.

Early in the war we were told we had depended to a large extent on enemy countries for our sugar supplies, but all that was needed were buildings and machinery to make our own beet-sugar. We have proved we can grow the beet; *all over the country* are any number of buildings—the disused munitions works—which could be converted into refineries. Were beet-growing and sugar-refining immediately taken up on a large scale, by next autumn we should have sufficient sugar for Britain's needs, and the industry would prove one of the "staple" trades of the country, providing remunerative employment for vast numbers who are now unemployed.—JOS. WEBSTER, Linaker Street, Southport.

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. D. C. Roose.

Official Addresses.

Why not have a printed list of the address of Government Departments displayed in every Post Office? As it is now, one writes to a dozen probable addresses before hitting on the right one. For instance, not one soldier in ten knows where to apply for a pension. By publishing proper addresses, much time (not to mention temper and postage) would be saved.—T. R. KEMP, Markly Rd., Birmingham.

Getting To a Job.

When—or if—the Labour Exchanges find a man a job in a different district from that in which he resides, they advance his railway fare; but if he finds his own job they advance him nothing, the result often being considerable hardship. I suggest that in cases of necessity a travelling voucher be issued, either free or for repayment afterwards, to enable the man to go to his new job. This would be a real boon.—W. H. DISBURY, Popson St., Bungay.

Boon for ex-Service Men.

In the early days of demobilisation the Government refused to allow men to retain their Army great-coats, and, consequently, many are suffering hardship now that winter coats are so expensive. I suggest that any ex-soldier who was discharged before the date from which the present Order re great-coats took effect should, on production of his Protection Certificate at his Regimental Depot, be allowed to purchase for £1 an Army great-coat. This would be a boon to many men who cannot afford a large sum for one.—R. WILSON, Croydon Road, Anerley, S.E.

Nothing Like Leather.

The foisting on the public of boots and shoes consisting not wholly of their proper material but also of paste-board, in many cases with only a thin veneer of leather, should be prevented by a legal enactment, with heavy penalties attaching to its infringement. The practice of making such adulterated footwear, besides being grossly dishonest, is fraught with grave danger to health. Many a chill resulting in death may be traced to a leather paste-board soled boot. Surely if the milkman, or other tradesman, is fined for selling goods other than what they profess to be, the shoemaker should not be exempt.—D. C. ROOSE, Alexandra Road, Birkenhead.

Dangers of Spiritualism.

Considering the evil effects which spiritualistic *seances* have on highly-strung individuals of either sex, it would be a good thing were persons below the age of 21 prohibited from attending such gatherings. Also steps should be taken to make hypnotism illegal, except when practised by authorised persons.—M. R. INGLIS, Castle Street, Edinburgh.

"On the Strength."

The country needs children. Our peace-time Army will consist of several hundred thousand young, healthy fellows in the prime of life—the very pick of the nation. These men should be encouraged to marry, and the Government must give them the lead. Let there be no more disgraceful "off the strength" business, but a sensible allowance for a soldier's wife and children, and conditions that no man need be ashamed to ask a woman to share.—R. T. COOPER, Alpe Street, Ipswich.

Parliamentary "Answers."

Can nothing be done to compel the representatives of Government Departments in the House of Commons to give a straightforward and business-like answer to questions asked by the people's representatives, instead of the present unsatisfactory method of an evasive and usually non-informative style of reply? The guiding rule of these "officials" seems to be secrecy, whenever possible—failing which, the minimum of information with the maximum of camouflage.—N. A. EDMUNDSON, St. James's Road, Blackburn.

Consecrate the Cenotaph.

Why not consecrate the ground where the Cenotaph is to be permanently fixed, and make it the last resting-place of two of our dead heroes, a soldier and sailor, side by side? At present the Cenotaph only is there, like a tree without roots—the object, or the real essence, is missing; and it is contrary to British practice to pay homage to wood or stone.—BERT MASON, Fairburn Road, Liverpool.

Hidden Scales.

Would it not be possible to bring in a law compelling all grocers, confectioners, and kindred tradesmen to have scales used for the weighing of household commodities and foodstuffs in the sight of the customers? It is a common practice for the scales to be hidden behind piles of various goods, thereby providing the temptation—and opportunity—to give short weight.—G. HILL, Medlock Road, Horbury, Yorks.

Fire Danger in Council Schools.

The average L.C.C. school and playground are, in most cases, entirely surrounded by a brick built wall 10 ft. high, with iron gate entrances 8 ft. high and 4 ft. wide, also bricked in over the top. Many of these schools are two or three storied buildings. In case of a serious fire, what chance would the fire brigade have of getting an escape in position? Would this style of building be permitted where adult factory hands are employed?—ALFRED HALL, Ormside Street, Old Kent Road, London, S.E.

Maternity Benefit.

The Health Insurance Maternity Benefit still remains at 30s., in spite of increased scale of living, etc.—and of fees. During the war a midwife's fee has risen to 21s. from 12s. 6d.; a doctor's from one to two guineas; the prices of flannel and other necessary items for the wee stranger have gone up over 100 per cent., as have milk and other nourishments necessary for the mother. There ought to be a bonus added to the Maternity Benefit. It would do a great deal toward raising the birth rate.—(MRS.) T. BALL, Vernon Street, Farnworth, Bolton.

Utopian!

Herewith a remedy for most of our National grievances. Let M.P.s' put aside their personal interests, and pass a law fixing a man's wages at 50 per cent. higher than they were in July, 1914; pass another measure to allow nothing to be sold or bought at more than 25 per cent. more than the same article cost in July, 1914. Take the control off most things; re-introduce a modified system of Free Trade; abolish subsidies; thin out the bureaucrats; stay the flood of paper currency, and if necessary let us have a capital levy, to set the Old Country on its feet.—D. C. BATSON, Lewis Road, Welling, Kent.

The Victory Christmas.

This is the first Christmas at home for five years for thousands of ex-Service men. Many of them are not within sight of the means for a real British Victory Christmas! Would it be too much to ask local municipal authorities to take upon themselves the role of Father Christmas? Bring a hamper of good things to the door of each ex-soldier in want—they can easily be found through the Pension Offices and the Labour Exchanges. Without some such plan, many will lack the traditional festive board on this "Peace" Christmas which they have made possible! J. QUINN, Clegg Street East, Burnley, Lancashire.

Our Gilbertian Government.

Parliament has rejected the proposed issue of Premium Bonds as a form of gambling, yet one can enter any Post Office in the United Kingdom and send an open telegram to a Turf Agent or Bookmaker putting whatever sum one chooses on any specified race-horse, and the Government will accept the message and also ensure its delivery. In fact, if it were not for the thousands of telegrams dispatched connected with horse-racing and betting, the loss on the telegraph service would be appalling. Who was it who called us a nation of hypocrites? Many of the Members who voted the other day against Premium Bonds have no compunction whatever in taking tickets for a raffle at a Bazaar—although, if unsuccessful, the money is absolutely lost!—C. A. REYNOLDS, Bassett Road, Kensington, W.

Shaving Comfort depends on the gliding stroke

A barber's shave is smoother and leaves you without after-shaving tenderness because his deft fingers shave you with a *gliding* stroke.

You shave *yourself* with the same *gliding* stroke with a Durham-Duplex razor, because *the shape makes you;* but the guard ensures absolute safety.

DURHAM-DUPLEX **Stroppable – any Strop**

Durham-Duplex blades are double-edged, of finest Sheffield steel. The unique grinding, honing and stropping processes remove the ragged edge common to all other razors, and thus prevent after-shaving tenderness.

Go to your nearest retailer to-day and ask to see these handsome outfits. You will be astonished at the wonderful value.

A Lifetime's Shaving Comfort for 7/6.

DURHAM-DUPLEX RAZOR CO., LTD., 18, Church St., Sheffield.

London Sales Offices: 57, Weymouth St., W.1.

Home Efficiency

Means Reduced Expenditure

"The Amateur Mechanic"

Written by Skilled Craftsmen, containing 6,000 Practical Illustrations.

Shows You How to Save Money in the Home. It Teaches You How

To make boots and shoes
Window mending
Rubber soles on shoes
Making household furniture
Furniture repairing
Painting and decorating
Fretwork in wood
Electro-plating
Watch repairing and cleaning.
Clock cleaning and repairing
Boat building
Plaster casting
Soft and hard soldering
Making Incandescent Mantles
Making a magneto-electric machine
Overhauling a motor-car
Brick-laying
Hot-water apparatus
Fitting range boilers
Venetian blind repairing
Upholstery
Gilding metals
Fixing locks and bolts.
Restoring and repairing china
Tent making and setting up
Hot-water-proof cements
Stuffing birds
Dressing skins
Soap-making at home
Nickel plating
Stencil cutting
Making a garden path
Gilding and restoring picture frames
Curtain fitting
Draught-proof windows and doors
Distempering ceilings and walls
Warming two rooms from one grate
A self-closing door
Silvering and bevelling glass
Roller blinds
Repairing defective floorboards
Frosting glass
Carpet and lino laying
Adjusting typewriters.
Picture framing
Repairing sewing machines.
Making marie lanterns
Door hinges
Signwriting
To build poultry houses, garage sheds, etc.

This is Money-making and Money-saving Information

Mr. J. PATTERSON, Kirkcaldy, writes:—"I think the work quite justifies your advertisement. The illustrations are one of the best features, showing more clearly how to set about the jobs than any amount of writing could do. The books are well bound and well printed. They will last a lifetime, and will pay for themselves over and over again.

Over 50,000 Citizens are now using 'The Amateur Mechanic'

FREE SEND FOR DESCRIPTIVE BOOKLET SHOWING SPECIMEN PAGES FROM THE WORK

This work has helped others. It will help you.

Mr. W. FREEMAN, Poplar, London, E., writes—"The work is in every way a great help to those who seek information on any subject, and is good value for the money."

To the WAVERLEY BOOK CO., Ltd. (J.B.5 Dept.), 96, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

Please send me, without charge or obligation to order, your Free Illustrated Booklet containing all particulars of "THE AMATEUR MECHANIC," and information as to your offer to send the Complete Work for a nominal first payment, the balance to be paid by monthly payments, beginning thirty days after delivery of work.

NAME.....
(Send this Form or a Postcard.)

ADDRESS.....

J.B.5. 1919.

FOLLOW the LEAD

of England's Greatest Chefs use GOODALL'S EGG POWDER

Pure, wholesome, Goodall's Egg Powder will help you as it has helped scores of Famous Chefs, to make exquisitely light, and well-flavoured pastries, puddings, cakes, scones, omelettes, shortbreads, etc. And look at the saving in cost! Goodall's Egg Powder makes cakes as cheaply as if eggs were 1d. each and gives exactly the same effect as the best new laid eggs.

Monsieur Stempfer, Chef de Cuisine, Marlborough House, refers to Goodall's Egg Powder as "the most efficient and valuable egg substitute I know," whilst Monsieur Geneux, Chef de Cuisine to the Naval and Military Club, writes: "I find it supersedes the use of eggs, making light, wholesome and delightful pastry."

You cannot go wrong in following the lead of these great chefs—remember they are experts who, guided by experience, have chosen Goodall's Egg Powder for use in their own creations.

Large Packets, 1½d., Tins, 8d. and 1/4.

GOODALL'S Egg Powder

GOODALL'S CUSTARD POWDER

Delicious, nourishing, easy to prepare—there is no other Custard like Goodall's. Grown-ups enjoy its rich flavour, children revel in it.

Packets, 7½d. and 1/3 (and in large tins).

GOODALL'S JELLY CRYSTALS

No injurious artificial flavours or colourings are ever put into Goodall's Jelly Crystals; therefore they are the most wholesome and delicious.

Of all Grocers. Pint Packets, 9d.

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WAR RECORD OF A

Sir John Simon Unmasked—How He Deserte

By THE

IF Sir John Simon is returned for Spen Valley, then Spen Valley will do itself political dishonour. I say this with the utmost deliberation, and any reasonable man who takes the trouble to read this article through will agree with me long before he reaches the end. Sir John Simon cannot complain if I unmask his little game. He deserted the Government in the war; he ran away from his duty as a patriotic man. He could not trust the man under whose political banner he is once more ready to serve, and the humour of it is that Mr. Asquith, whom he left in the lurch at a critical moment of the war, is now ready to stand sponsor for him once more. I have said a thousand times that I care nothing for political labels. If a man is a good man, I don't want to know whether he is Liberal or Unionist, Radical or Tory or Labour. But I say this—that we have a right to judge every man by the acid test of what he did in the great war, and in all seriousness I accuse Sir John Simon of risking victory by leaving the Government at a moment of intense crisis, and trying to lead a revolt against compulsory military service.

What Sir John Simon Did.

And let me say this in reviewing his political career during the war—that he knew better than any of the brave men who risked home and life itself in the great cause how dire was the need for men. That glorious little Army which hurried across the Channel at the first challenge had been wiped out; Kitchener's men, who leapt to arms at the call of King and Country, had dissipated their strength and lain down their lives in those wonderful days when the oncoming German was checked and then hurled back. The need for more men to continue the struggle was dire; we know now what was the position of the enemy, and in the light of that knowledge realise the terrible responsibility of a man like Sir John Simon, so high in the counsels of the Cabinet, who dared to throw up his position, and flout his Chief, who, whatever his faults, was at least trying to do his best. But what did Sir John Simon care? He had all the military secrets at his command; he knew the crying need for men, and yet more men; he had sources of information at his disposal which must have convinced him that unless the Commander in Chief was able to rely upon the Government at home to make up the awful wastage, all the blood and sacrifice would be in vain, and the Germans would sweep through to Paris, overthrow our gallant Army and our splendid Ally, gain the coast, and make a direct menace to inviolate Britain. And the Prime Minister, knowing the necessity, realising the tremendous peril of the position, called upon the House of Commons and the Country to give him the power to conscript, in the interests of all we held dear, the manhood of the nation. Whose was the voice raised in most aggressive challenge?—Sir John Simon's. Who was the man in that perilous hour who threw over the Prime Minister and ostentatiously strode from the Treasury Bench?—Sir John Simon! If he had had his way, the military forces of this country would have dwindled under the onslaughts of the Hun until not a handful of men would have remained to uphold the honour of the Empire and protect the homes of England and the virtue of our women.

Flouting Lord Kitchener.

This is what we are now told by Ludendorff, "the ablest and the most skilful of the German commanders"—to give him the description applied by Mr. Asquith the other day in Manchester—as to the condition of things at the end of 1916: "We were completely exhausted on the Western front. We had to bear in mind that the enemy's great superiority in men and material would be even more powerfully felt in 1917 than 1916." Would that great superiority in men have been possible if Sir John Simon had succeeded, as he hoped to succeed, in defeating the Military Service Bill passed in the summer of 1916? Mr. Asquith, possessing just the knowledge that Sir John Simon possessed, took the responsibility—and let us give him credit for his courage—of recommending conscription. Lord Kitchener, the man whom the country deeply trusted, from his great experience in warfare, realised the paramount necessity of supporting the gallant fellows who were upholding the honour of the Old Country in the blood-soaked trenches. But what did these things matter to Sir John Simon? He was pleased to say he did not believe in the means proposed. He knew it was recommended—he said so in the debate—"on the ground that it afforded the shortest and plainest way in which to increase the strength of the nation in its hour of need"—yet in his self-opinionate arrogance he threw over his chief and the great soldier and tried to wreck the Bill.

Cannot Wipe Out the Past.

Memories are short. So much has happened since those testing days of 1916, when the cry from the battle-front—"Come over and help us"—fell upon our ears with piteous insistence. The voices that raised that cry—thousands of them are now silent; their bodies have hallowed the ground of France and Flanders. But the man who refused to listen to that cry—who set his opinion against those of the soldier who knew and the statesman who trusted the soldier—is to-day asking for the confidence and the votes of the people of Spen Valley. Judge him by his conduct in the war. Ask yourselves, you who have placed upon you the high privilege of choosing who shall be sent to the House of Commons, is this man who so jeopardised victory—who, if he had been successful in his efforts would have left the Army on the battle-fronts to dwindle and disappear before the onslaughts of the foe—a fit and proper person to represent you in Parliament? With all his lawyer's tricks, and his oratorical powers, he cannot wipe out the past. Never forget that Sir John Simon was one of the men lukewarm for the Right when the great challenge came. Let any man who goes to hear him speak in Spen Valley put to him this question: "Did you at any time advise the Cabinet that the country was under no legal obligation to defend the independence of Belgium?" I challenge him to answer in the negative. What is more, I challenge him to deny that when Lord Morley and Mr. John Burns resigned because they refused to agree that this country was justified in going to war for the support and defence of little Belgium and gallant France, they expected—and had good reason to expect—that Sir John Simon, too, would resign.

Do Not Vote For Simon.

Look at the position! The ex-Home Secretary is to-day asking the electors of Spen Valley to return him to the House of Commons, to rehabilitate him in public and political esteem when, his war record unmasked, we see as clear as sunlight that he has no claim either on the gratitude or the confidence of the country. I know he ultimately went "to the war"—but in a purely technical sense. So soon as he had broken with the Coalition he realised that Patriotism would test him, and that unless he did something, his political stock—like War Loan—would fall very low. What did he do? He was forty-one when war came, and he was a member of the Government engaged, of course, in work of importance. But when he left the Government and flouted military opinion of the need for compulsory service, was there nothing left but big fees at the Bar? Yes, he joined the Royal Air Force as legal adviser, with the rank of Major! What he advised about, whether it was on the International aspect of reprisals, or the need for the bombing of Berlin, I do not know. But this I do know: that his war record, look at it how you will, disentitles him to the confidence—and even to the respect—of any constituency. Let us ignore the fact that when he was Attorney-General, in 1915, he saw fit to use his great position, not in favour but against, cotton being made contraband—cotton used in the explosives which blasted into nothingness many a gallant British soldier. Count it as little, if you like, that the man who refused to vote for the only effective method of carrying on the war and defeating the Hun, could yet find it in his heart to subscribe money to provide comforts for the pampered and over-fed German. But never forget his record, and when he asks for votes and for confidence deny him both because he deserves neither.

LAWYER-POLITICIAN.

the Government in a Crisis—Which of the Three?

EDITOR.

And What of Tom Myers?

Sir John Simon must not win. His candidature is alike a challenge and an offence. It is an offence to those who lost their dearest and best in the war; it is a challenge to the patriotism of the British people. If he were returned to the House of Commons, it would mean that a man, no matter what the character of his war record, can fling it in the face of a constituency, and cynically and successfully demand a whitewashing. And it will be an insult to gallant France, to whom he was prepared to deny that help in splendid man-power which made victory certain, if a British constituency, before even the Peace Treaty has been ratified, so far forgot his record and its own good name as to return such a man to Parliament! But there is another man who has no chance of taking a seat in the House of Commons if Spen Valley, as I am sure it will be, is true to itself and to the glorious dead. Sir John Simon was false to the pledge of "married men first"; Mr. Tom Myers, the Labour candidate, has boasted that *he* sat with arms folded during the whole of the war. We know his type. It has no resemblance to that fine flower of the workpeople of Britain who stood shoulder to shoulder with peer and peasant in the fight against Civilisation's enemy. He is of the Independent Labour Party. One of Mr. Myers' leaders declared, only a few days ago, that he was "looking forward to the time when Lenin and Trotsky will be as welcome in the streets of Great Britain as were Botha and Smuts." That is the aspiration of Mr. Robert Williams. These men of the "I.L.P." see no difference between the scoundrels who have bathed Russia in blood and seared its soul with rapine, and the great man who now lies at rest in his beloved South Africa and the splendid soldier, once an enemy, whose fine abilities were so freely placed at the service of King and Empire. Let them dismiss Myers and all men of his kidney, in one all-embracing and contemptuous phrase—true men of Britain will neither shake hands with murderers nor have any truck with their friends.

Colonel Fairfax's Fine Record.

But I have still to say something of the third of the candidates in the Spen Valley Election. And I have left the name and record of Colonel Fairfax, the Coalition Candidate, to the last, because I want—at the close of my appeal—to bring in a breath of fresh air. Not for Spen Valley surely the contemptible Party-politician who deserted his Chief and jeopardised his country's cause; not for Spen Valley the miserable Myers who counts it for righteousness that "so far as I was concerned it [the war] went on its own way, and I took no part in it in any shape or form." What a boast; what a record! Contrast it with the splendid story of duty well done of Colonel Fairfax. He was old enough to avoid service; he was brave enough to insist upon rejoining the Army. Every man who served his country will feel a thrill of pride that one who helped to win the victory is ready to take his part in shaping the era of peace and prosperity. We have a right to put the question to these three candidates, "What did you do in the great war, Sir?" Let me supply the answer. Sir John Simon: "I deserted the Government in the hour of crisis, and refused to assist the Prime Minister in the fulfilment of a solemn promise to our Allies, that we should not dally or delay in the performance of an obligation of honour." What can Myers say? "So far as I was concerned, the war did not exist—I took no part in it in any shape or form." And here is the answer of Colonel Fairfax: "I did my duty as a soldier and a patriot. I fought for my King and Country, and am proud of the fact." First in the Flying Corps, and afterwards as an infantryman, he "did his bit." He went to France with that splendid battalion, the 1st of the King's Liverpool Regiment. He fought in the trenches. He went over the top. He was in the Battles of the Somme, in 1916, when Sir John Simon was in comfortable and safe Ministerial retirement; and then, being badly gassed, his career of fighting service perforce came to an end. Which of these three men is worthy of, and deserves the honour of, a seat in Parliament? Can I doubt the answer of the men and women of Spen Valley—of the sturdy Yorkshire folk who love their country, and honour brave deeds? And even if we put another and a purely political test to the men, the claims of the Coalition candidate cannot be disputed. You who know me need no telling that I am no Party man. I was returned to Parliament as an Independent, and independently I have worked and voted in the House of Commons. But I say this quite deliberately, that there is not to-day, nor can there be for some time to come, any practical alternative to Mr. Lloyd George's Government. You may not agree with all they do—I certainly don't. But would you prefer to see Mr. Asquith and Sir John Simon replacing Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law, and governing in peace time the country they could not lead to victory in war? I wouldn't. And I say this: It is the duty of every loyal Briton to help the Government to carry out their plans of reconstruction. Where we disagree with them, do not let us hesitate to criticise, provided always we are not merely destructive critics. But where we find reason for sympathy and support, let us give it ungrudgingly. And the Spen Valley election is important because it offers an opportunity to give the knock-out blow to men unworthy of public confidence—who have dared to ask for sympathy and support—and to return to the House of Commons a gallant man who, having genuinely fought for victory, is best fitted to help us to gain the fruits of victory.

Let Us Think of These Things.

And Spen Valley is an election which comes at a moment fraught with the utmost consequences to the future of the land we love. The Government has many critics—I am one of them when criticism is necessary—but Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues have enemies too. The greatest of these enemies are also the enemies of their country. When people talk of finding another Government, in what direction do their thoughts turn? Is it contemplated for a moment that power should go to Mr. Asquith, and the men who were removed from office—not by a General Election, but through the strong if silent force of public opinion? Surely not. Whatever be the demerits of the Coalition; however much we may deplore the muddles which have besmirched the fair picture of Peace; whatever our opinions of this or that Minister, we all know this: that a thousand times rather would we have the Lloyd George Government than see the reins of office pass again to the weak-kneed and German-loving gang that jeopardised victory and nearly lost us the war. If not the "old gang," then is it to be the "new gang"—Labour Bolsheviks and "I.L.P." Irreconcilables, whose one aim is to deny to this country the quiet blessings of peace, and to plunge us into an industrial and social strife more bitter and more menacing than the awful struggle from which we have not yet completely emerged?

Which of the Three?

Men like Smillie and Williams, who stand in the Spen Valley behind the Labour candidate—the description is not a fair one, for he cannot speak for the better elements of Labour—are out for revolution. They make no disguise of their intention—it is to turn over the existing order of things and to set up in this country the kind of government which has brought ruin and bloodshed to once proud and prosperous Russia. Before such threats, against such men, all that is best in the British spirit is ranged in serried and solid antagonism. This country will not turn from the Coalition so long as the only alternative is government by men who are out to ruin trade and commerce for their own wild and ruthless ends, regardless of the real interests of the real working classes. On every possible occasion the nation's voice must answer in no uncertain tones the threats and menaces of the Labour extremists. Spen Valley is important because it affords a Yorkshire constituency an opportunity of "downing" the lawyer-politician who was kicked out of a London seat; of sending the dangerous nominee of the "I.L.P." about his business; and of putting on record its firm conviction that none but men of clean record in the war and of honest aims in the Peace are worthy to sit in the Imperial Parliament.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

LADY ASTOR, M.P.

Good mornin', me lady. I can't 'elp knowin' 'oo you are. The papers 'ave bin simply lunged up with your portrait lately. Simply sicken in—simply delightful it was, w'ile it lasted. "Lady Aster on 'er way to the 'Ouse"; "Lady Aster on 'er way back from the 'Ouse"; "Lady Aster gittin' into 'er car"; "Lady Aster gittin' out of 'er car," and cetra. An' the letterpress 'as bin pritty near as bad—or I sh'd say, as entertainin' as the photygraphs. I don't know 'ow many journalists 'ave worked the stunt about you bein' the first daughter o' the Mother o' Parlyments, w'ich, if you'll excuse me, is tommy rot. They might as well call young 'Armsworth, wot got in for Thanet, the youngest son o' the Mother o' Parlyments. The phrase means as ours is the mother of *other* parlyments, foreign an' sich like. You aint the daughter o' the Mother o' Parlyments, but 'er latest 'at or toque, so to speak thet's all. But I'm afraid I'm takin' up your time torkin'. Wot is it I kin do for you, me lady? . . . *'Air dressin' in a simple, sober style soitable for the 'Ouse o' Commons?* Now you're awskin'! Wot's the idea? . . . I see. *So's you kin wear a 'at wot don't want pins, so's you kin take it orf without no trouble, an' put it on as easy w'en you rises to a point of order.* I see. Well, me lady, are you 'ere simply as a Member o' Parlyment, ready to set in a chair in the gent's saloon, like wot other Members 'ave done, or am I to reckon you a lady an' ask you upstairs? . . . *You expects the pirticle attention due to a lady?* Come upstairs, then, ma'am . . . *Impossible to think of your settin' 'avin' your 'air dressed in the presence of a crowd of men?* W'y? You're the on'y woman settin' among six or seven 'undred men in the 'Ouse, aint you? An' don't you see some o' them men 'ave their 'air orf at times? But there you are—there aint no accountin' for wimmin' nowadays, nor p'raps there never was. They don't mind bein' their backs an' arms at resterongs an' balls, makin' the waiter's eyes nearly drop outer their 'eads, but they're afraid to let their 'air down in a respectable 'airdressin' saloon patronised by Royalty, M.P.s, an' the gentry! But wimmin never was logical, was they? . . . Take this chair, me lady—near the gas fire. You want the 'air done in a severe style, I take it? Somethink to make you look like a serious an' sober statesman, eh? In other words, you want to look the part. Am I right, ma'am? . . . You've *explained already wot you want?* Quite so. But that was five minutes ago, ma'am. I thought you might p'r'aps 'ave changed your mind be now. No, allow *me* to remove the 'air pins, me lady. I promise you I won't make no attempt to feel your bumps at the same time, although. I might tell you on the quiet, I'm a bit of a phrenologist . . . *Wot? I'm the most garrulous man you've ever met?* Oh, wait till you've sat in the 'Ouse a week or two longer, me lady! There's a score there wot beat me 'oller. By the way, me lady, you sed the other day somethink about us men's number bein' up. Wot exactly did you mean by that?. . . *Just exactly wot you sed?* Oh, I thought p'r'aps you did. Thank you. Now I know. Our number is up. Jest becos a lady of American origin 'as managed by the aid of a few Plymouth electors to barge into the 'Ouse, us men's number is up! Thank you very much, but—I *don't* think. There's life in the ole dogs—an' the young 'uns too, fur thet matter—yet, me lady. You mustn't forgit you're jest an experiment. You'll be watched pritty close to see w'ether your presence adds to the efficiency o' Parlyment an' justifies your inclusion. If you make good, other wimmin will git in, an' the men won't 'ave no objection. But if you start orf by sayin' us men's number's is up, at the next General Election you might find the boot on the other foot. 'Sides, it's ungrateful to tork like thet. Us men gave the wimmin the vote, didn' we? And an 'Ouse o' Commons o' men passed the Act wot enables you to set there, didn' it? . . . Very well, then, be a bit grateful. There's no need to kick the ladder by w'ich you climbed, is there? . . . There you are, me lady. Now you'll be able to put your 'at on like a man an' rise to a point of order!

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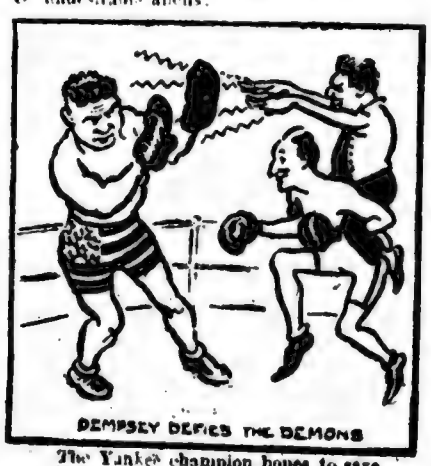

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RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

RACING.

The railway jam is getting a little beyond a joke—at least it is with racegoers. It has about reached the public scandal stage. Apart from passenger traffic, the owner and trainer are quite naturally up in arms against the way their horses are delayed in transit from their training quarters. It is no uncommon thing, these days, for a horse to take 11 to 17 hours getting from Newmarket to one of the meetings. The several railway companies get a big revenue from racing. It is surely time, therefore, they extended a little more consideration to those who provide the sport.

Reduction in railway fares at excursion rates for the racegoing public has long since been done away with. Instead, they have been increased, and are likely to go up still higher. Yet those paying 1st-class have often but third-class accommodation -and standing at that—provided for them.

No one will dispute the fact of there being a boom in sport, and particularly racing, just now; but the edge will be taken off the public's keenness for racing unless the railways do something to ameliorate the discomforts of travelling that now prevail. Their duty surely extends beyond the booking offices.

It is recommended that railway companies do something to decrease the expenses of conveying horses: this is according to the recent report to the National Hunt Committee. And time, too! Why should a big reduction be made for hunters, who contribute nothing towards the railway companies' exchequer (only a handful of people going to the various meets), while full fare for horses and 50 per cent. up on their attendants is charged for racehorses?

John Jackett is being trained for the Victory Hurdle Race at Manchester.

The Plumpton Meeting was always the old hunting-ground of the Dicker Stable, and I do not think I can give my readers better advice than to follow the colours there.

FOOTBALL.

Form in the inter-Varsity football matches, suffered from the ultra-keenness usually associated with these functions, this being particularly noticeable in the "Rugger" game. In the "Soccer" match the Cambridge forwards obviously had attacks of nerves, as some of their shooting was almost too bad to be true. By the way, the Rugby contest attracted twice as many spectators as did the Association match. Rather a change from the old days.

As football forecasts go in these days of fluctuating form, *The National News* is doing very well. Six correct prognostications out of eight Southern League matches played last week, and seven right in eleven Scottish League games, is rather good going.

BILLIARDS.

The tenacity with which Inman clung on to Smith in their match at Leicester Square, after being heavily in arrears, revealed the present champion at his best for the first time this season. It was highly creditable to the young Darlington player to harass Inman as he did, and once more, both in temperament and skill, he confirmed the impression that he is the coming champion. Meanwhile, Newman showed such excellent form against Falkiner as to threaten a menace to Smith's championship chances. We saw him compile a break of 420 that was practically flawless, his touch at the top of the table being perfect.

The Amateur Championship, for which entries closed on Saturday, is going to be the "real thing" this season, now that the game is under one control and we are relieved from the farce of two competitions of similar pretensions.

HOCKEY.

What is this we hear of a hockey match between two quite prominent Yorkshire clubs being abandoned shortly after half-time by a "fed-up" umpire? And in hockey, of all games! Will the Hockey Association take the matter up and strike a blow in the interests of the game, or will they permit the unsavoury incident to blow over, and resent any prominence being given to it in the Press? We are out for clean sport, and do not like to see the splendid traditions of hockey abused.

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

HAYDOCK PARK—FRIDAY.
Bryn Hurdle—*SESOSTRIS.
Garswood Hurdle—VANITIK.
Wigan Chase—PRINCE CLIFTON.

HAYDOCK PARK—SATURDAY.
Newton Hurdle—KIRKHAILE.
St. Helen's Chase—*FARGUE.

HURST PARK—FRIDAY.
Sheen Hurdle—*SABIAN.
December Chase—ARDONAGH.
Ditton Hurdle CORYDON; if absent, TREZIDELLA.

HURST PARK—SATURDAY.
Surrey Hurdle—*GARRYVOR.
Molesey Chase—BERNSTEIN.
Hampton Chase—MACMERRY.
Mole Hurdle—GIRVAN.

ATHLETICS.

We are wholly in accord with Mr. D. Bason, who, at the London Athletic Club dinner, referred to the Olympic Games as more likely to spoil amateur sport than anything else. From start to finish, he said, "they seemed to be adjoining professionalism," and he considered them a sheer waste of money. His sentiments merely reiterated those expressed in JOHN BULL over and over again.

Result of Football Competition No. 13.

Ten winning teams had to be selected from the sixteen matches played on December 6th. Five of these matches were drawn, thus leaving eleven winning teams in all to select from.

The following two competitors each named ten, and therefore share the prize of £250:—

F. BISHOP,
Albury Lodge Farm,
Little Hadham, Herts.

E. W. BROOKS,
Queen Camel, Somerset.

This week, the prize for naming ten winning teams has been increased to £400. This large prize *must be won*, so do not fail to fill up the Coupon on page iii. of cover.

LAWN TENNIS.

Our Davis Cup team has arrived in Australia fit and well, and in order that they should have ample time for practice and training, the date of the contest at Sydney has been rearranged for January 16, 17 and 19. There is talk of a subsequent tour "down under," but at present it is uncertain whether Lt.-Col. Kingscote will be able to secure extended military leave to undertake this in its entirety.

BOXING.

London, Paris, or America? That is the question. Wherever the Carpentier v. Dempsey fight may take place, it is a pity that, owing to the various contradictory assertions, there should be such confusion over a matter of so much wide public interest.

So far as Mr. C. B. Cochran is concerned, we have implicit confidence that all his published statements as to an agreement having been signed with him are made in the best of faith. We have said before, however, and we repeat, that it would be more satisfactory to the public and the general interests of boxing were the whole game brought under strict official and fully representative control.

As to the ultimate issue, the Yankees who think it a "cake walk" for Dempsey may have to undergo a rude awakening. Dempsey is reputed to have a terrific punch, but that with which Carpentier put out Beckett was the most wonderful thing of its kind we have ever seen. It would appear to be a question of who gets there first, and we all know the speed of Carpentier—at least Beckett does.

We were not there, of course, but we pay little heed to the newspaper decision at Milwaukie, which gave Jack Starkey the verdict over Jimmy Wilde. The popular little Welshman, following the feting since his arrival, could scarcely have been perfectly fit, but a bigger handicap was that he was not allowed to enter the ring at his proper weight, the American law stipulating for not more than 10 lbs. difference between the men.

As the newspaper men admit, Wilde did most of the leading and the forcing, whilst Starkey was repeatedly clinching; hence the peculiarity of the verdict. Jimmy Wilde tells us that he thought he had won easily, and he is too good a sportsman to say this without full conviction.

Bill Eynon was well-advised in not facing Alf Mansfield at the Ring on Monday, in view of the latter's suspension by the Board of Control. It was all very well for some people to urge that Mansfield should have put the authority of the Board to a test, but obviously it would have been inexpedient for a professional boxer to shoulder a responsibility that ought to devolve upon people with less to lose.

GOLF.

It is refreshing to think that the Royal and Ancient Club shows signs of becoming an active and potent force in the control of golf. The decision to take on the management of the Amateur Championship has met with wide approval, and the next step should inevitably be the control of the Professional Championship. The game needs a real live controlling body, and must look to it that the said body is so constituted as to represent all the interests in what is no longer a "class institution."

CRICKET.

The decision to revert to three-day County cricket matches is a wise one. There is wisdom, too, in deferring the visit of the Australian team, as nothing could be better in these reconstruction days than full concentration on the County Championship. An "All-England" season should be a huge success.

WHIPPETS.

It is high time that in the sport of whippets all incentives towards abuse should officially be eliminated, especially the dodge of owners changing their own names, and those of their dogs, in order to circumvent the handicappers. Until a National Whippet Association is formed—an effort is being made in this direction in the North—there will never be unanimity of purpose and proper control.

BLIND

Please do not pass them by

An Appeal on behalf of the Blind Institute in Tottenham Court Road, by Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Beatty, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

£30,000 is urgently required by the famous Blind Institute in Tottenham Court Road in order to provide larger premises, so that the Blind, who are requesting admittance, will not ask in vain.

The Blind Institute helps the Blind in the most practical way of all. It teaches them a trade, finds them employment and ensures them good living wages. To find the Blind work is to bring them mental ease—to ensure good wages is to provide them with the comfort of independent subsistence.

Please show that they have your sympathy in a practical way by sending a donation to-day.

(Signed)

Beatty.

This Appeal is issued on behalf of the
The Incorporated Society for the Promotion of the Welfare of the Blind,
258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.
Patrons:—Their Most Gracious Majesties The King and Queen. Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

DONATION FORM.

To Howard Mullins, F.C.I.S.,
Secretary and General Manager,
The Incorporated Association for the Welfare of the Blind,
257-258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1.

I enclose Cheque. / Postal Order for £ s. d. as a contribution towards the £30,000 Appeal for the Blind.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

(Please state whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss.)

For Health's Sake

The high opinion of Hall's Wine held by the medical profession is reflected in the great number of letters from doctors on our files. And Hall's Wine is regularly prescribed by doctors in their daily practice. One medical man writes: "I wish my patient to continue Hall's Wine for her health's sake."

Hall's Wine

THE SUPREME TONIC RESTORATIVE.

Every effort is being made to satisfy the increasing volume of orders for Hall's Wine, but as the demand still exceeds available supplies the public are asked to have patience.

LARGE SIZE BOTTLE, **5/6.**

Of all Wine Merchants & Grocers & Chemists with Wine Licences.

Stephen Smith & Co., Ltd., Bow, London, E.3.

L81

FRY'S COCOA

It makes no difference how much you pay for **COCOA**—You cannot get a better than **FRY'S PURE BREAKFAST.**

As a food for tired body and brain, as a food of delicious flavour, as a food that is capable of the quickest digestion and assimilation by the system—**FRY'S** is the finest cocoa that experience can produce or that money can buy.

You can speak fluent

FRENCH, SPANISH or ITALIAN

AFTER ONLY 30 HOURS' EASY STUDY

by Dr. Rosenthal's unique system, which is by far the simplest, quickest, and most practical method of learning these languages. Only TEN MINUTES' application THREE TIMES A DAY for TEN WEEKS is necessary, and you speak the language after the first day's study.

Briefly, the Rosenthal System, based on Nature's plan, associates words with ideas and teaches you by coherent, commonsense sentences, so that without exhaustive mental effort or memorising perplexing rules and exceptions,

GERMAN.

Extract from recent Government Report:—
"It is of essential importance to the nation that the study of the German language should be not only maintained but extended."
Be prepared for the commercial fight now commencing—study German now by the simple Rosenthal method.

YOU QUICKLY BECOME A PRACTICAL LINGUIST

This pleasant "odd moments" study will greatly increase your earning powers—widen your outlook, and reveal new joys in the land of literature.

READ AND ACCEPT SPECIAL OFFER BELOW.

FUNK & WAGNALLS CO., Salisbury Sq., E.C.4.

THREE DAYS' FREE EXAMINATION FORM.

To Funk & Wagnalls Co., Salisbury Square, London, E.C. 4

GENTLEMEN,—I accept offer of Dr. ROSENTHAL'S PRACTICAL LINGUISTRY in the.....language at the Special Price of Sixteen Shillings per set of the books for one language. Please send these books on Approbation, carriage paid. If for any reason I am not satisfied with them, I may within 3 days after their receipt return them to you. If retained, I shall remit you 4s. within 5 days, and balance in monthly instalments of 4s. until total amount is paid. (J.B.)

Name (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss) (Rev.) .....

Profession or Business .....

Address .....

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or main chance-paring, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

Coming Home:—All troops from Mesopotamia who were held up in India have now been evacuated and are on their way home, and we are officially informed that four large troopships will arrive here from the East about Christmas Day.

About Time, Too!—Following our remarks in reference to overcrowded troopships returning from the East, on which many cases of infectious diseases occurred, we are officially informed that further steps are to be taken to prevent or reduce the risk of epidemics on the voyage. We are especially glad of the assurance that in future fewer men will be carried. Hitherto the overcrowding has been hideous.

A Matter of Money:—We are obliged again to call attention to the fact that soldiers who should have been tried only for absence without leave have been illegally court-martialled and condemned for desertion, with the result that they have lost their medals, back service, and more or less considerable gratuity. This may please the Treasury, but it does not please the Army.

And More Money:—Pre-war Service pensioners who rejoined for the campaign and did satisfactory paid work, are now to have their pensions increased, according to Army Order 325 of this year. There were many of these veterans in the Colonies who joined, trained, and fought with Colonial units. When, however, they apply for a re-assessment of pension, they are turned down with the official remark that only men who rejoined the Imperial Army can benefit: not a word being in the Order concerning "British" pensioners who were in the Colonies and raised the forces there!

"JACK."

H.M.S. *Coreopsis*:—The men of this ship, now at Mudros, found a poor little kitten adrift and starving. They brought it on board, and the big-hearted fellows reaped much fun from its happy gambols. But a high authority peremptorily ordered it to be put on shore or killed: so the men drowned it in order that it should not find further misery. Immediately afterwards, to the orders of the officers, a pig was brought on board and installed close to the quarter deck.

The Small Craft:—A representative was at Sheerness the other day and met the 2nd and 3rd Destroyer Flotillas returned from the Baltic to refit and obtain Christmas leave. They had been there for over 60 hours with no issue of meat or bread, and had received no mails. Were they forgotten by the Admiralty, or was it another instance of nobody being responsible?

High Living:—Concerning meal allowances for men on detached duty, it has now been ordained that a dinner voucher is to be worth a shilling—a tea, supper, or breakfast voucher to represent an Imperial sixpence. If our sailors grow too obese for their uniforms, the Order will probably be cancelled.

Welcome "Swank":—The C.P.O.s and P.O.s on the big ships will soon scarcely know themselves. Their messes are to be fitted with armchairs, electric heaters and radiators, cushions, padded seats with reversible backs, bookshelves, special electric reading lamps, curtains, and other comforts. All this is doubtless due to the "matey" relations between the men's Welfare Organisation and "My Lords" at Whitehall.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Very Intelligent:—Messrs. Pilkington, Ltd., advertised for a senior N.C.O. to look after their petrol-driven lorries and cars. A sergeant of the R.A.S.C. applied, and was given the go-by as, said the firm, "most of our wagons are steam." The Sergeant, by the way, could tell all about any steam or petrol wagon put before him.

"Miss You, Love You, Kiss You!":—In 1914, when we enthused over recruiting, firms released their men to enlist, with the promise that if they returned home they would be reinstated in their jobs. Many of these concerns sought newspaper recognition to boom their "patriotism." We have before us a printed circular addressed to the shareholders of Messrs. G. H. Williamson & Sons, Ltd., tin box makers, of Worcester, pointing out that out of about 500 men and youths who enlisted from the firm only about 60 have been reinstated because female labour is doing the work. What a godsend the war has been for some people who wanted to substitute cheap girl labour for that of the male worker! Of course, the change means increased profits.

The Cry of the Ex-Service Man:—We regret to say that every day "demobbed" sailors and soldiers complain to us that they are unable to obtain reinstatement in their old jobs. Of course it may be that in some instances it is, in consequence of a falling off in business, no longer possible for the old employer to take back those who have so bravely stood between us and the Beast of Europe. We are afraid, however, that such a plea can be honestly put forward in but a comparatively small number of cases.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors; and (b) suffering amongst the people generally. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.

Increasing Distress:—Since the Out-of-Work Donation was stopped, there has been a marked increase of distress throughout the country—with the result that our mail-bag becomes more and more glutted with letters of supplication. Many there are who will not work—and we have means of finding them out, and in every case withhold help. But numerous others leave no stone unturned to obtain employment, without result. They are the real sufferers; and unfortunately it frequently happens that the civilian or the Service man who applies, has the responsibility of a wife and family on his shoulders, and too often illness as well as semi-starvation is in the home.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Hunger, but no Pension:—A discharged soldier, with a wife and two children, has no pension and cannot find work. The family was destitute.

Foundered:—Another ex-soldier, unemployed, has a wife and several children who "often go to school hungry." He was much behind with his rent, and was threatened with eviction.

Little Strangers:—The wife of an ex-soldier who has just obtained work, had already five little mouths to feed when twins arrived.

Disabled:—A disabled soldier in a sanatorium has a little pension; but at home are a wife and five small children who were very badly off.

Helped Her Along:—A young girl was in distress—as she was unable to find work. She appealed for help to procure food and clothing.

Victimised:—A man during a strike remained loyal to his employers, but was turned out of his old position at the instigation of the union, and is consequently hard up.

A HERO'S STRUGGLE.

(A case typical of the many of distress and hardship which have been relieved by our Fund during the week.)

An extremely painful case is that of a poor fellow at Blackpool, disabled by the terrible disease of consumption, yet struggling desperately to maintain a wife and two young children. The sufferer attributes his malady to infection while employed upon the manufacture of Army clothing. When his turn came for military service he was rejected as "totally and permanently unfit." Our hero—the term is not inapplicable—determined to make a fight for it, shifting his home to Blackpool for the benefit of the sea air, and putting himself in touch with the local Labour Exchange in the hope of obtaining light employment. Alas, all his efforts were doomed to disappointment, and except for six weeks' unemployment benefit at 29s. weekly, the poor fellow has had no means to keep the wolves of hunger at bay. Now that the Out-of-Work Donation is finally cancelled it is idle to discuss the attitude of the Blackpool Labour Exchange officials, who for weeks together withheld the benefit which was the family's sole means of support; they were unwilling apparently to allow the poor consumptive to "pick and choose" his employment, and there was some wretched bother over a lost Insurance card. In the meantime, the family were sinking into destitution, and now with the final withdrawal of Out-of-Work pay their plight is desperate. The man's little savings are entirely exhausted, and every article of value in their possession, including the wife's wedding-ring, has been pledged for food. The poor woman is willing enough to work, but there are two babies to consider, and at any moment the husband's illness may take a graver turn. The case is one of those in which a timely grant from our "Greatest of These" Fund has proved an inestimable boon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Ship's Company, H.M.S. *Bramble*, Persian Gulf, 1919 (per D.P.), £14 18s.; Capt. R. M. M. (Grimsby), 19s.; J. K. M., 1s.; "In Memory of Our Dear Son, G. M.," 2s.; "W.," £1; R.N.W.O. Club, Malta (per Mrs. King), £6; Mrs. F. S. B. (Pretoria), 5s.; Mrs. L. H. (Ventnor), 5s.; H. T. T., 5s.; A. E. B., G. M. (Gorton), 10s.; A. H. (West Ham), 2s.; Surplus Proceeds of a Beckett-Carpenter Sweepstake (Marylebone), 10s.; R. H., 2s. 6d.; D. J. W. (Watford), £2; I. K. W. (Northgate), 2s.; Mrs. A. H. H. (Moseley), 5s. 6d.; "Gurkha," £3; "Punch and Judy," 10s.; "Lest We Forget," 10s.; R. K. G. (Belfast), 10s.; M. A. (Hitchin), 2s.; Miss M. G. (Colorado), £2; "Ismawa," 10s.; "Kat's Eye," 1s.; W. A. C. (Lincoln), 2s.; R. D. (Ashanti), 6s.; "Teddy," 2s. 6d.; "Nottingham Admirer," 3s.; F. C., 6d.; F. S. (Oxford), 1s. 6d.; per A. K. D. (Southsea), 5s.; "Bessie," 10s.; "Gertie," 2s. 6d.; C. R. B., 2s. 6d.; D. H. (Fife), 4s.; "Wallaceyan," 2s. 6d.; D. S., 1s.; A. C. (Cardiff), 2s. 6d.; S. M. C. S., 2s. 6d.; "Fag," £1; Anon. (Reading), 5s.; "Will's Girl," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. H. (Wallasey), 2s.; "Ajax," 4s.; "A Little Gratitude From a Few Working Women" (per R. S.), 5s.; C. P. H. (Chepstow), 2s. 6d.; B. L. Phillips (per H. S.), £1; Anon. (Leytonstone), 2s. 6d.; R. I. (Norwich), 2s. 6d.; A. W. (Normanby), 5s.; "A Nurse," 2s.

We have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of two cheques, for £61 4s. and 3,436 marks respectively, contributed to our Fund by the men of the 236th Divisional Employment Company.

"Dumb and Paralysed."—Additional sums received for the benefit of the poor old ex-Hussar are: Mrs. H. M. S., 7s. 6d., G. E. M., M. and W. S., "Silver Badger," "In Memory of My Father," W. S. G., M. B., "Chester," C. R., M. I. S., C. B., "Bowhill," "Amesbury," E. M. B., A. E. P., F. K. C., and P. B. D., 10s each; "Thompson Family," 12s. 6d.; "Wine 4 Pay Office, Chatham," 13s.; "Wellwisher," H. B., J. H., F. L., "Biddy," "Bunnie," F. C. C., and "A Widow," £1 each; J. C., A. E. B., and A. L., £1 1s. each; C. P. and E. B., £2 each.

Christmas Poor Fund: "Mem," £3; "Huguenot," 10s.; A. H., 1s. 6d.; W. C. T. (Canterbury), 2s. 6d.; C. B. T. (Erdington), 5s.; K. M. W. (Lindfield), £1; J. R. B. (London, W.), 5s.; F. H. B. (Deal), 1s.; G. W. (Belfast), 2s. 6d.; J. L. (Lr. Clapton), 2s.; E. M. H., £1; "Cheerio" (Boscombe), 5s.; A. W. M. (Saltburn), 5s.; "Maxwell," 10s. 6d.; "Two Poor Women," 5s.; "Bowhill," 5s.; J. H. (Cardiff), 5s.; J. H. (Gravesend), 3s.; "Gran," 1s.; S. E. G., 2s. 6d.; B. W. (Preston), 2s. 6d.; "Marie, May, Mabel and Muriel," 2s.; E. and A. S. (Teddington), 2s. 6d.; H. L. J. (Champion Hill), 21s.; A. F. (Salisbury), 5s.; "80 Per Cent. Disabled" (Holbeach), 2s.

The Only Way to Cure

RHEUMATISM

Backache, Gravel, Gout and most Kidney and Bladder Diseases.

You must positively get rid of the cause—the poisonous Uric Acid. De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills quickly get rid of this poison.

ONE FREE BOX OFTEN DOES IT.

While all kinds of theories have been advanced from time to time, eminent Physicians and Surgeons in all parts of the World are agreed as to the chief cause of kidney trouble. Scientific research has shown how a poison (urea) is formed in the body by food in the process of decomposition. The kidneys, in health, filter this deadly poison from the blood, and cause it to be passed out of the body by natural functions. But when the kidneys are weak or diseased the poison is not removed from the blood but forms tiny grains just like atoms of sharp-pointed broken glass. These particles are known as urates, and are the cause of unbounded misery and pain; they lodge in the kidneys and bladder and cause calculus or stone, and more often gravel. They stay in the joints, causing articular rheumatism—in the muscles the pain means muscular rheumatism; in the back these bits of sharp-edged misery cause lumbago, lame back, and general weakness.

Mr. A. CARPENTER
(from photo).

These are only a few of the consequences of weak or diseased kidneys. Isn't it common sense to believe that if the poisons are removed the pain will go? Away with the poisonous urates and health returns as surely as the sun rises each morning.

De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills are prepared especially for kidney and bladder troubles. They tone up the kidneys, purify the lining of the bladder, and cause the deadly poisonous urates to be passed off. And what is more, when you take De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills you have proof to your satisfaction within twenty-four hours that they have actually passed through the bladder, that they have put their healing touch on the weak spot. One of the best-known antiseptics in the hands of Medical Science is included in the manufacture of these pills, and in doing their healing work they prove beyond all doubt that they do go right to the root of the trouble, and not merely pass through the bowels, as most pills do.

Read what others say about them. Mr. Albert Carpenter, of 17, Lambeth Walk, Westminster, S.W., says:—"My kidneys and bladder were weak from childhood, and time after time I was ill, and often in hospital with rheumatism. In March, 1[illegible], I was in a very critical condition with rheumatic fever, when a small box of De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills was given to my mother. I started taking them, and in two days I could move about again. I continued the treatment, and after six weeks I returned to work and have continued ever since. I can lift and handle half a hundred-weight of metal with ease, and without any traces of my old pain."

This letter was written in 1912. Seven years later Mr. Carpenter wrote confirming his previous testimonial. He says: "I have recommended De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills to many people—some of them very bad cases—and I have never known them fail."

Bear in mind DE WITT'S.

If you suffer from kidney trouble in any form, Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sciatica, Gravel, Stone, Lame Back, or any such symptoms of kidney trouble as headache, sediment in urine, bad taste in the mouth at mornings, puffiness under the eyes, go to your Chemist at once and ask him for a box of De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills.

De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills are sold by Boots', Taylor's, and all Chemists and Drug Stores everywhere at 2/9 per box, or 5/- for a box two and a-half times as large. If you have any difficulty in obtaining, send the price of the package required to E. C. De Witt and Co., Ltd. (Dept. 1428), Rathbone Place, Oxford Street, London, W., and same will be sent to you immediately in plain wrapper.

De Witt's Kidney & Bladder Pills

—SPECIAL FREE COUPON—

This special Coupon, properly filled in, entitles the sender to one Free Box of De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills, if name and address of your Chemist is mentioned.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

1428 One free box only to each home.

Or if you prefer to try them without risking money, if you mention your Chemist's name and fill in Coupon below, a regular free trial box will be sent by return post.

Whenever you buy Kidney and Bladder Pills be sure and see that the name "De Witt" appears boldly on the package, because only by getting De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills can you depend on obtaining a sure remedy.

"JOHN BULL" Window Dressing Competition.

Your Last Chance!

The "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition will close on the 31st of the present month. If you are a Shopkeeper and have not already entered for this great National Competition there is just time for you to do so.

The big prizes offered must be won. Every competitor, large or small, stands an equal chance. There is no entry fee and the conditions are simple. All you have to do is:—

1. Select any article advertised in "John Bull" and display it in your window for one week.
2. Send a photograph of the display (with your name and address written on the back) to "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition, 90, Long Acre, London, W.C.2

The Prizes are as follows:—

1st Prize

200 GUINEAS

2nd Prize

100 GUINEAS

3rd Prize

50 GUINEAS

50 Prizes of 1 gn. each.

500 DIPLOMAS of Special Merit.

Decide to go in and win one of these handsome prizes! Lose no time—*send at once for the Free Brochure* which gives full particulars of the Competition, and also some useful hints on Window Dressing.

Fill in the Coupon—NOW

CUT THIS OUT

To the Manager, The "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition (Dept. J.B. 10), 90, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

Please send me full particulars of the "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition. I am a bona-fide trader and attach my bill-head, card or business note-paper.

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STAINLESS CUTLERY, straight from Sheffield, best steel blades, white Xylonite handles. Always bright without cleaning. Dessert Knives, 6 for 21/-. Table Knives, 6 for 24/-.—Post free from Parker & Co., 539, London Road, Sheffield.

THE RIFLEMEN'S AID SOCIETY, inaugurated 1880 for Riflemen of good character of the KING'S ROYAL CORPS and RIFLE BRIGADE, is now established at 71, Eccleston Square, London (near Victoria Station). All cases of Riflemen requiring assistance or advice will receive careful attention and personal investigation. Office hours, 10-4. Secretary, Lt.-Col. W. Judge.

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THE "DEMOB" MINIATURE CLIP ON BAR is a Bar, with correct reproductions of ALL MILITARY RIBBONS, IN MINIATURE FORM (Mons, General Service, Victory, etc.) Any combination made up. Two Ribbons 1/6, Three 2/-, Four 2/9, Five 3/-, Six 3/6. Obtainable at all leading Stores, Hosiers, Tailors, etc. Enamelled Badges made for all purposes. Send for Colored Lists and prices for quantities to sole makers—W. O. Lewis, 37, Howard Street, Birmingham.

REMUNERATIVE WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. A few ladies and gentlemen, possessing energy, tact, and persuasive powers required by well known firm to work in own district during whole or spare time. Very attractive proposition with unlimited opportunities and excellent prospects. References required. Write for particulars, H. Sinclair, 68, Jermyn Street, London, S.W. 1.

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DELICIOUS EATING APPLES.—28 lb. case choice Hereford Dessert Blenheims especially selected. Satisfaction guaranteed or money returned. 14/6 carriage paid.—Ellis, 4, Harley Court, Hereford.

GRAMAPHONE NEEDLES, loud tone, 3/- 100, post free by return. Guaranteed finest English manufacture, tone and wearing qualities unequalled. Special terms large quantities.—White Trading Co., 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.2.

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be addressed to the City Editor.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

BY OUR CITY EDITOR.

Each enquiry must bear name and address and be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

Top-Heavy Bull Accounts.

The Stock Exchange pretends that it was the collapse in exchanges that made the slump last week. This is nonsense. As I pointed out last week, a large bull account has been built up, and there is no bear account to balance it. The stock has been paid for in cash; that is true, but probably 50 per cent. of the cash has been borrowed. In the olden days the broker carried the stock for a fortnight, and then borrowed on it in the Stock Exchange or through a Bank. Thus the lender had a better security than he has to-day. In the end it all comes back to the Banks.

Lord Swaythling's "Moratorium."

Lord Swaythling proposes a kind of moratorium in which, apparently, every nation will be able to buy what it wants, and "chalk it up." Surely this is trusting too much to human nature. I presume Germany and Austria, Russia and Finland are to be given unlimited credit. They may run up a fine bill, and then go to war with us to avoid payment.

The Prussian Way.

Do not forget that at the time of the Agadir incident the French Bankers withdrew their money from Berlin. The president of one of the biggest Banks in Paris was told by a high German official that unless the Banks stopped their withdrawals of gold from Berlin, Germany would declare war at once—"And our army would come to Paris and take back all the gold you have already got." That is the Prussian way of doing business! No doubt one reason why Germany declared war on Russia was that Russia refused to renew her commercial treaties. These world-wide moratoriums look very pretty on paper, but they are quite unworkable.

Wallpapers.

Wallpaper Deferred slumped badly when the report was seen. They had been bid up to 22s. The profit, however, is only £327,561, a drop of £90,368 on the year, and the Deferred get only 5 per cent. Some explanation is needed.

Humber's Fine Earnings.

Humber figures are very good, the profit having doubled. A 10 per cent. dividend is paid, but those who think of giving 27s. for the shares should pause, for the Balance Sheet is none too strong. There is a Bank overdraft and a loan secured by mortgage.

Thornycrofts Too High.

Thornycrofts do not look worth their present price. The dividend is only 12½ per cent., and the new issue of Preferred Ordinary, together with the Debentures and Preference, calls for £38,750. This looks as though it might be difficult to squeeze 10 per cent. out in future and keep up the Reserve Fund.

Northern Exploration.

Some weeks ago I pointed out that this Company had been in existence eight years, and had paid no dividend. Also that Spitzbergen was a desolate land that never saw the sun for over six months in the year. The Secretary wrote traversing some of my statements, but what he said did not alter my opinion,—which was that the shares were a dangerous speculation. The Report is now out, and covers eighteen months. The capital is to be increased to £1,000,000. Propaganda expenditure, whatever that may mean, is £4,183. £42,075 was spent on the 1919 expedition, so clearly Spitzbergen is not a cheap place. In 1918, £33,305 was also spent on an expedition; also it appears that it has not been easy to place shares. £313,309 have been issued and are fully paid, and £156,691 are 4s. paid, whilst £83,199 of shares have been paid up since the date of the balance sheet. Apparently it has cost £53,916 to place these shares, so somebody is getting a very fat commission. The Directors are not underpaid, as they take £14,473; whilst the London office can hardly be considered economical, for it cost £6,736 to run for eighteen months. The total cash is £48,893. Turning to the Report of the Engineer, we find that there are five or six companies working coal in Spitzbergen, with the wonderful yearly output of 130,000 tons—which compares very badly with the output of any single good South Wales mine. The iron ore deposits do not appear to be of economic importance. Indeed, with the exception of coal and marble, other deposits appear of no great value. I read the expert's report as pessimistic, and advise shareholders to get out of their shares if they can.

Coats.

The Chairman of J. & P. Coats, Ltd., was very annoyed at the shareholders' annual meeting with those "captious critics" who have called attention to this concern's huge profits. He said that the great bulk of its trade was done abroad, the earnings in the home markets being counted only in thousands, not millions. All the more reason, I should have thought, why the 7½d. reel should be substantially reduced in price to the home consumer, frequently a poor seamstress or other sweated female worker.

A "Milk Trust."

We have heard a good deal of late of a Milk Trust and the scandal of milk prices. Last week appeared the prospectus of the United Dairies, Ltd., which huge concern is obviously more interested in maintaining than reducing the price of milk. I am not enamoured of the necessities of life being in the hands of large combines.

Autocracy in Excelsis.

The attitude of the Stock Exchange Committee in the matter of the new Dunlop issue is, in my opinion, indefensible. In a sentence, because the Directors would not issue letters of renunciation the Committee threatened to remove the quotations of the Company's shares from the Official List, notwithstanding the fact that the shareholders in General Meeting had agreed to dispense with such renunciation letters. And, as I think, the Board acted somewhat weakly in yielding. The Committee would seem to have taken a leaf out of the book of that other autocratic body, the Jockey Club. The shareholders, as proprietors of the great Dunlop enterprise, are the only people concerned, and the interference of the Stock Exchange Committee in their affairs is intolerable.

Ural Oilfields.

The Chairman's interesting announcement, at the recent meeting, of the important extension of the Company's interests should be good reading for the shareholders. So acute is the coal shortage in France that development on a large scale of oilfields there by a substantial British company should do much to relieve the situation and prove extremely profitable to the concern. The proposed new oil interests in Trinidad, in connection with the acquisition of which the capital of the Company is being increased, also represent an important addition to its resources.

Co-operative Profit-sharing.

I am glad to see yet another big company making handsome provision for its employees' participation in its prosperity. Messrs. Bryant & May, Ltd., in general meeting have agreed to allot 200,000 £1 shares to their workers. Other large firms, please copy.

An Unsatisfactory Prospectus.

I do not at all like the prospectus of the Patent Wear-Proof Motor Tyre Co. In my view, the public are being asked to buy a "pig in a poke." I have seldom come across greater paucity of essential information. For instance, it is specifically stated that "for trade reasons the directors deem it prudent not to give details of cost and profit," whilst there is no estimate by an expert, or anybody of standing in the trade, of the value of the patent. The shares should be left severely alone.

Marconi Share Bonus.

I referred last week to the issue of a million and a half new Ordinary shares at £3 by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co., which, as I then pointed out, represents a bonus of 25s. a share. Elsewhere will be found particulars of the offer—which, needless to say, will be taken full advantage of by the shareholders.

OUR FINANCIAL LETTER BAG.

EDITORIAL REPLIES.

(All enquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

B. M. W. (Bromley).—*Grand Trunk Thirds:* The present price is about 19½ for the £100 stock. There is a perfectly free market on the Stock Exchange.——N. H. (St. Just).—*Improved Twisted Steel:* I have not a good opinion of the Company's prospects, and think it would be prudent to reduce your holding.——W. T. (Pontyclun).—*Rhodesian Exploration:* Decidedly speculative, but the prospects at present are hopeful.——H. H. P. (Hinckley).—With your small capital you ought to be content with *War Saving Certificates* or *War Loan Stock*. *Boots* (Chemists) however, are a perfectly sound investment.——H. G. T. (Sheffield).—*De Keysers Preference:* So long as the shortage of hotel accommodation lasts the company has excellent prospects, although it was not very generously treated by the Government. *Metropolitan Railway Ord.* at £23¼ (not shillings) may be regarded as a good lock-up. The rubber shares mentioned have fair prospects, and among the mines selected *Ashanti Goldfields* and *Rhodesian Broken Hills* are the best.——E. J. M. (Hornsey).—All the shares referred to must be classed as speculative, and there is not a free market in any of them.——E. M. (Bruscough).—*C. Radcliffe & Co.:* These small shipping companies are extremely speculative, and as the outlook is uncertain I think you should sell.——C. C. (Diss).—*New Transport:* There is only a very limited market in the shares, and I have seen no recent quotation. If you have had a good offer for the shares, take it.——F. I. (Acock's Green).—*London Premier Omnibus:* There was nothing at all for the shareholders under the winding-up.——CONSTANT READER (Blackburn). *St. Cecile Casino:* The business was a sheer "spec" and has completely disappeared. The shares are valueless, and there is no chance of saving anything from the wreck.——LUCKY STAR (Bolton).—*Nakamura Asphalt:* At the time this company was issued we repeatedly warned readers against it. The shares must be regarded as quite hopeless—except as wall decorations.——ANXIOUS (Worthing).—*Charing Cross Bank:* Practically the only asset was the railway, which is in a derelict condition, and it is highly improbable that the Government or anyone else will take it over. I have good reason to believe that the liquidator has made every possible effort to realise the property—but so far without success.

(A considerable number of replies are held over for lack of space, but every endeavour is being made to answer them promptly by post.)

The following is not an invitation to subscribe for Shares but is published for information only.

Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited.

Issue of 1,500,000 New Ordinary Shares of £1 each at £3 per Share to Shareholders.

MARCONI HOUSE,
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.
8th December, 1919

1. The Directors now offer 1,500,000 new Ordinary Shares of £1 each at the price of £3 per share, pursuant to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, to persons appearing on the Register of Members on the 4th December, 1919, and to holders of Share Warrants to Bearer, issued on or prior to that date in proportion to their respective holdings, namely, one new share for each Ordinary and/or Preference Share held by them respectively.

2. The shares now offered will rank for dividends declared in respect of the period commencing the 1st day of January, 1920, but in all other respects will rank *pari passu* with the existing 1,250,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each.

3. Acceptances must be received by the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited, 21, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, on or before the 19th December, 1919, together with a payment of 5s. per share (which includes 3s. on account of premium), being the amount of the first instalment.

4. The balance of £2 15s. per share will be payable as follows:—

10s. per share (which includes 6s. on account of premium) on 30th January, 1920.

20s. per share (which includes 12s. on account of premium) on 31st March, 1920.

25s. per share (which includes 19s. on account of premium) on 31st May, 1920.

Failure to pay any of these instalments on its due date will render all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

5. Payment in full may be made upon acceptance (but not otherwise), in which event interest at 5 per cent. per annum will accrue from that date on the amount prepaid. Interest at the same rate will be chargeable on overdue instalments.

6. Share Certificates will be ready on the 13th January, 1920, and will be issued on or after that date at the Company's Office, Marconi House, Strand, London, W.C.2, in exchange for the Banker's Receipt for the first instalment.

7. Shareholders may transfer the whole or a part of their rights to the new shares.

8. Application will be made for the special permission of the London Stock Exchange for dealing in these shares.

9. If the conditions as to acceptance and payment are not duly observed, the right to participate in the above-mentioned issue will be absolutely forfeited, and the Directors will deal with the shares for the benefit of the Company at their discretion.

By Order of the Board,
H. W. CORBY,
Secretary.

COMPANY MEETING.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.

MARKED EXPANSION OF BUSINESS

A separate general meeting of the holders of the Preference shares of the Commercial Bank of London, Ltd., was held on December 11th, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to consider a resolution for the reconstruction of the company and the reorganisation of its capital. The Right Hon. Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bt., P.C. (the chairman) presided.

The Chairman, in moving the resolutions, said that he would like to congratulate the shareholders, because none of the original shareholders of the old Commercial Bank of London could ever have anticipated the success which the institution had now attained, or that the directors would ever be able to put before the shareholders such satisfactory proposals as those which were now submitted. This was really the second time they had enlarged their capital resources since the control passed into the hands of the present board. The business of the company had expanded so satisfactorily and so rapidly that, in the opinion of the directors, it was now desirable to increase the capital. It was felt, moreover, that the opportunity should be taken at the same time to consolidate the capital into one class of share. Deferred shares of the nominal value of 1s. were an undesirable form of capital for a banking company of the magnitude and reputation to which this company had now attained. (Hear, hear.) On more than one occasion the directors had found them detrimental to their development, and the company's business had suffered accordingly. They were advised that the best way of carrying out the proposals was to form an entirely new company with one class of share to take over the business of the present one as a going concern.

The new company would have a nominal capital of £5,000,000 in shares of £1 each, of which it was proposed to issue 3,500,000 shares. Of these 2,250,000 would be issued immediately, 675,000 to existing shareholders and 1,275,000 to the public. The subscription of these new shares was already in sight, but it was the board's intention to give every possible advantage to existing shareholders, and applications from them would be given preferential consideration. It was unlikely that these shares would ever again be obtainable at par, and consequently this preferential right should constitute a substantial bonus to existing shareholders. The terms of the exchange of shares were that 975,000 shares were reserved to be offered share for share for each existing share, Preference or Deferred, and each Preference share would receive a cash payment of 2s. 6d. and each Deferred share one of 4s. In addition, each share, Preferred or Deferred, would, on December 30th, receive a full six months' dividend, i.e., 8s. 4d. on each Preference share and 7.08d. on each Deferred share, making a total cash payment of 3s. 2½d. and 4s. 8d. respectively. The directors were anxious to reserve for the shareholders as large a share as possible in the prosperity of the new company, and accordingly had decided that of the balance of 3,500,000 shares of the present authorised issue—namely, 1,250,000—975,000 should be reserved for them. Option certificates would be issued to the old shareholders giving them the right to take up one new share *pro* par for each share held at present at any time within the next twelve months.

Those who had been shareholders from the commencement knew how the business had grown and prospered since the present board took office. He had on previous occasions borne testimony to the genius of Mr. Clarence Hatry, the managing director—(cheers)—and it was no secret that the foundation of their success was very largely due to his efforts. They had also a staff of able lieutenants, and possessed an organisation second to none in the City of London.

Mr. Clarence C. Hatry (managing director), seconded the resolutions, which were carried.

COMPANY MEETING.

UROZ OILFIELDS

(LIMITED).

COAL CONCESSIONS IN FRANCE

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Uroz Oilfields (Limited) was held on Tuesday, December 9th, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., Mr. H. W. Sillem (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen, the primary reason for convening this meeting is to comply with the provisions of Section 64 of the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, and the only business to be transacted to-day is to receive a statement from the directors as to the accounts of the company, and to elect directors and auditors. As soon as these matters have been dealt with, the meeting will be adjourned until such time in 1920 as we can conveniently meet to discuss the accounts, which will be made up to December 31, 1919. Before coming to these formal matters, however, you will, no doubt, be interested to have a brief account of the position of the affairs of the company.

At the meeting I will refer to our concessions in France, and at the extraordinary general meeting, which is immediately to follow this one, I propose to say something about our Trinidad oil business. Our concessions in France were acquired in the latter part of 1918, and comprise full exploiting mineral rights over an area of 5,616 acres. Further mining rights were acquired in July last, and the area corresponding thereto will be definitely ascertained after our application for, and grant of, a further concession. The properties covered by the existing concessions are situated within 50 to 55 miles of Toulon, the great French naval base, 30 miles from Nice, and 90 miles from Marseilles; four miles from the station of Montferaux, on the Sud-de-France Railway, and 11 miles from the village of Frejus, on the P.L.M. Railway.

We are very fortunate in the situation of our concessions in relation to the railways. The Sud-de-France line passes within three miles to the north of our property, and the intervening country is in every way suitable for the construction of an aerial ropeway to transport the coal to the railway.

Now, as to the coal deposits, it would appear that the existence of anthracite coal in the most northerly of our concessions was discovered upwards of 80 years ago, and the coal seams were actually worked for some years by the primitive methods then in vogue, but only to a limited extent. The old records testify to the excellent quality of the coal found in the old workings, the thickness of the seams aggregating to 17ft. 10in.

With your permission, I will read a short extract from the report furnished to us by Renwick Cowan, our manager in France, and formerly manager of Pumpherston Oil Company, Ltd.:—"To the south of this concession (approximately 2½ miles, and forming the southern extremity of the Reyran basin, is situated the concession of Boson, containing valuable shale seams, which are being exploited at present. Some few years ago extensive prospecting and development operations were executed under my direct supervision, and during that period a careful and thorough investigation was made and valuable data procured. The tracing of the shale outcrops northwards through the Madeleine concession to the Frejus-Nord boundary formed an important part of these operations. From the data then obtained I am of opinion that the seams found traversing the boundary are the Boson shale seam's position, and will be found to extend into the Frejus-Nord concession."

Mr E. A. Wood seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was afterwards held, for the purpose of increasing the capital of the company and altering the articles of association.

The Chairman said: I will now propose the following resolution: "That the capital of the company be increased to £500,000 by the creation of 460,000 new shares of 10s. each, and that the said shares be issued at such time and on such terms and conditions and to such persons as the directors may prescribe."

Mr. Law seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

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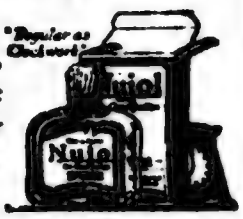

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EASY J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD **TERMS**

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

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LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

MRS. G. P. (Derby).—We wish we could "get the mouldors back to work." It has been a most disastrous strike, and thousands of innocent men, like your soldier son, have been sorely hit.

"A DISABLED SOLDIER'S WIFE" (Wales).—"The prices of clothing, food, coal, and household requisites are too ridiculous." Too serious, you mean. It wants a national strike of housewives, refusing to pay, to bring prices down.

L. B. (Bradford).—If you had read us with more attention you would have seen that we have dealt frequently and faithfully with the Great Milk Ramp.

A. E. M. (Nenagh).—You invite us to make a tour of the whole of Ireland. Well, will you guarantee that we should not be mistaken for a R.I. Constable, and shot from behind a wall?

"A CUSTOMER" (Clapham Common).—We have more than once expressed the opinion that the waitresses employed by the A.B.C. Company are inadequately paid.

B. L. D. (Buckhurst Hill).—"The people want houses and must have them quickly. Will you lend your valuable help?" You must not think we are forgetting what you say. It is before us all the time.

MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD.—Gravesend has inscribed in gold letters in the Town Hall:—"1914. The Borough gives its thanks to the Merchant Service. 1919." All honour to Gravesend for being the first to say so.

"INDICATOR" (Dublin).—"In this momentuous crisis ——." Don't you believe it. There ain't no momentuous crisis.

"JEAN" (Colwyn Bay).—The question of Divorce Law Reform has not left our minds, but in the present Parliament we don't think a Bill on the matter has the slightest chance of passing.

"MERCHANT JACK" (Liverpool).—Cartoon in *New York Telegram* of John Bull plastered in six places with League of Nations votes is a characteristic Yankee production. Uncle Sam—or at least some of him—doesn't think we ought to have any votes for our oversea Empire!

"ROBERT" (Thurso).—It's a sad world, and we must get our joke in at times. Like *Don Juan*. "And if we laugh at any mortal thing. 'Tis that we may not weep."

C. L. H. (Acton) maintains it is bad policy on the part of the Royal advisers to prevent the Prince of Wales from visiting Jamaica.

W. A. K. (York) suggests that all British newspapers should help to forward a Bill authorising Cruelty to Animal Societies to visit coal pits without notice, in the interests of pit ponies. We have advocated this for years. The present system of inspection is a farce.

A. T. T. (Denmark Park, S.E.).—The defeat of the Premium Bonds proposal was largely due to the fact that less than half of its Parliamentary supporters had the courage of their convictions. Give our love to the canary

G. W. (Boston).—We were certainly not aware that in the building trade there was a tax on "looses." Is there any on tights?

"TOMMY" (Camden Town).—Without subscribing to your opinion that we are "the pricelessest thing ever," we modestly submit that we are slap-up value for twopence.

T. R. R. (Notting Hill).—Unless he is careful, that Austrian who "boasts of the money he makes" will soon be boasting a lovely black eye.

W. G. (Malmesbury).—What sort of "engine" is it that you want to purchase by instalments? If it's a locomotive, it will run you into money.

N. R. (Liverpool).—Three persons, wrestling with your pencilled letter, find it relates to the grievances of temporary postal workers, a subject we have already taken up. We shall be glad to consider any new facts if you will put them in ink.

T. H. H. (Regent's Park Road).—Don't know anybody with two brothers-in-law who receive "£10,000 a year each to lie low." But we know lots who would lie anyhow for half the money.

J. P. (Lincoln).—We are sorry to say Lincoln is not the only place where the local authorities are retaining the services of their war-time lady clerks, to the detriment of the returned soldiers.

MRS. S. P. (East Ham).—"Could you let me know, in your book what you think of a Medical Board that sends a form for a time-expired man to be examined, when they know he has been dead this last seven months?" We couldn't let you know in our book, for its pages would blush. But you have our deep sympathy.

E. E. (St. Neots).—The Archdeacon of Huntingdon, summoned for driving a car without a licence, sent word that he was sorry, and the summons was withdrawn. Now, had it been you, dear reader ——?

W. T. (Torquay).—Thanks for humorous anecdote. Send us a drawing-room one next time.

"VANCOUVER" (Canada).—If we were you, we should not attach too much importance to Mr. F. L. Rawson's "Divine Healing." To pray for help for the doctor is the better way.

MRS. W. (Maryport), *re* Rev. A. Richards and confetti, says she was once a church cleaner. "People would come and make me two days' cleaning up after a weding, and very rarely left me a shilling for my trouble." The best man ought to know that this isn't good enough.

H. P. (Sevenoaks).—An old age pension of one shilling weekly is certainly a poor reward for mothering eight children, but unfortunately this form of national service is seldom recompensed as it deserves.

"DEMOBBED SOLDIER" (Repton). Your "conchy" acquaintance, like others of his kidney, is quite a handy "scrapper" as long as he can find someone weaker than himself.

R. E. S. (Sheffield).—We could judge better from the actual documents, not but what your copies are accomplished works of art.

"READER" (Chard).—In the eyes of the law, as we have repeatedly explained, marriage with a deceased husband's brother is no marriage at all. Sorry, but no fault of ours.

"CHIPPY" (Hayling Island).—Thanks for suggestion that we should "get an intelligent rich man to write an article." But at their present rates of pay all our staff will soon be millionaires.

MISS A. H. (Albert Bridge Road, S.W.).—So you think "the male was an afterthought of nature." If so, the wise old Dame just saved the situation.

"MARY ANN" (Horsham).—There are many middle-class girls who can "wield the broom"; also quite a number who can manipulate the mangle.

J. S. (Yarm.).—Sorry, but we must not print rude rhymes about parsons. We have reason to know that it riles the Bishops.

"OVERSEER" (Forest Gate).—To get old pensions of civil servants and others levelled up to the new scale is a stiff job, but we are still at it. And you should still hammer at the Treasury, on the principle of help coming to those that help themselves.

E. W. (Bournemouth).—"Dockyard Superintendents are mostly Admirals, highly paid, with free houses and other perquisites. They have no suitable training for the position, and consequently often obstruct the efficient working of the departments." We must see what the Admirals say to that nasty knock.

MRS. E. T. (Bootle).—"Excuse awful writing, but I am in a hurry." On the contrary—writing very nice. Please never write to us when at leisure.

"GIPPO" (Leyton).—Apply concerning arrears under new rates of pay to Chief Paymaster, War Office, giving particulars of your regiment and number. Have added your shilling to our "Greatest of These" Fund.

J. B. (Purley).—"If there are no poor, why are the Poor Rates increased 52½ per cent. since last year?"—To feed the higher officials with fat fees.

"A DISTRACTED MOTHER."—The condition of the girls' room at the dressmakers seems pretty bad, but it would be only fair for them to approach the firm first; by round-robin or deputation. You never know, you know!

"READER" (Oldham).—"The general ordered a Court Marshal." Perhaps he did. But are you sure that's the way he spelt him?

"ONE WHO SERVED" (Ealing).—The fact that the waitresses are being gradually displaced to make way for the Service men accounts for the demonstration in sympathy with the discharged foreign waiter. The Hydro Co. has acted patriotically and correctly.

A. S. S. (Bournemouth).—After twenty years as a cook at the G.P.O., London, your aunt surely ought to have received some sort of allowance on retirement—assuming, of course, that she never gave anybody the tummy ache.

W. A. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We note your opinion that "extra rates should be wiped out," but fear nothing can be done this side of Christmas.

"EXPERIENCE". (Tranmere).—You are joking, of course, when you say "nurses are not human"—although, come to think of it, we have heard them called "ducks."

F. S. (Banff).—We note that you wish to "do away with 70 per cent. of the railway porters." Please say by return whether you would like them hanged or shot.

E. S. H. (Richmond).—Very often, as you say, a timely gift from our "Greatest of These" Fund "makes all the difference between despair and joy." Hence our confident appeal to the generosity of readers.

A. E. Y. (Middlesex).—"I do trust your parents did not destroy the recipe." What *do* you mean?

"BRENTWOODIAN."—Thanks for story about the stockbroker's wife. Did you ever hear the one about the bookmaker's niece?

MASTER H. K. (Alston).—When a soldier won the £15,000 sweepstake, we asked, "Whereyer will he die when he goes to?" No, laddie, it was not a mistake, but a joke. You will see jokes quicker when you grow up.

P. V.—Ever since Sir Leo Chiozza Money commenced to teach us his view of statistics, he has always been what the late lamented Artemus Ward called "an amoosin' cuss."

"AN OLD FOSSIL" (Hull).—"The working-class of this and every other country under the sun are its back bone—hoping you will just give it a push." We do not approve of pushing back bones—or front bones either, for that matter.

MISS F. K. (Dublin).—Outrages in Ireland do not affect the decisions of our "Bullets" adjudicators, who keep an open mind and go by merit only. Two weeks back a third prize went to Ireland.

C. W. E. F. (Ashford).—The Profiteering Committee acted in your case as in many others which we have criticised. Apparently their object is to protect the tradesman and discourage the complaints of customers.

(Continued on next page.)

OUR XMAS GIFT TO YOU!

YOUR LAST CHANCE.

This week we reprint the Xmas Gift Coupon, which will be accepted as one shilling in part payment of a "John Bull" pen and is available to the 31st December only

The Manager,
"John Bull" Pen Dept.,
93, Long Acre, W.C. 2.

LIST OF MODELS:

No. 1.	Standard Price 3/3 with Gift Coupon ..	2/3
No. 2.	D.L. (De Luxe) Price 4/6 with Gift Coupon ..	3/6
No. 3.	Presentation Price 6/- with Gift Coupon ..	5/-
No. 4.	Safety - Price 6/- with Gift Coupon ..	5/-
No. 5.	Self-Filling Price 7/- with Gift Coupon ..	6/-
No. 6.	Style - - Price 3/6 with Gift Coupon ...	2/6

Postage and Insurance 3d. each extra.
State whether fine, medium or broad nib.

BY USING this GIFT COUPON you may deduct 1/- from the price of any of these PENS.

A 9618 93 Long Acre, London, W.C.
Xmas, 1919

This Coupon entitles the holder to a "John Bull" Pen at the special rates set out below and is equivalent in value to One Shilling.
Only one coupon will be taken in part payment for each pen, and is available to December 31st 1919

£0-1-0 Signed, The Manager

Letter Bag—Continued.

REV. C. W. S. (Hull).—No matter how we may disagree otherwise, we are all with you in working for "the betterment of the child." May difference of opinion never, etc.

A. McK. (Kilmarnock).—Sixpence for a cup of tea is shameless profiteering, unless they allow you to carry away the cup.

W. E. H. (Birmingham).—Glad you thought our paragraph "timely." How did it strike you as regards style and contents?

G. T. (Edinburgh).—Thanks for chatty and abusive letter. If ever we meet, we must split a small lemon.

"ANONYMOUS" (Manchester). — Have received book of "Brass Pins which Will not Rust," but which *have* rusted. As you are anonymous, 'nuff said.

"MR. W." (London, E.).—If the firm starve their horses in the way you describe, it is your duty to lay the facts before the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They would preserve your incognito, as we have done.

F. C. L. (Court Gate).—It is of course obvious that nobody has a chance of a position as bioscope operator until he has learned to operate the bioscope. We have had complaints about a good many of alleged schools.

MRS. B. W. (Holbrook).—We agree with you that the cartoon, "John Bull, Champion Baby Killer, Holder of World's Record," is a damnable production. The *Derbyshire Worker* is evidently a Bolshevik and Hunshevik paper.

L. P. B. (Freetown).—We are in receipt of postcript to your recent letter, and are having it fixed on with a safety-pin.

J. MAC. (Leith).—Wasn't it one Tupper who said the idle hand has fair excuse for propping the thoughtful forehead?

J. D. (Charlton).—Old-scale pensioners, police and others, are not "nobody's children." We are fathering them to the best of our ability.

"ONE OF YOUR ADMIRERS" (Liverpool).—"My back breaks with anger . . . the disgusting state of the back entrys . . . left to accumulate for a month. Do bite the Corporation." To prevent fracture of your spinal column, consider this a preliminary bark.

T. S. (Monkwearmouth). — "Warn ironmongers of a man who gets them to fit up a shop for his fish and chip business, doesn't open same, disposes of it all, and away elsewhere to repeat the trick." Ironmongers, beware!

T. F. (Bedford).—It is no use grumbling to us about the contents of your Sunday newspaper. Buy the *National News*.

"ENGLISHWOMAN" (Washington, U.S.A.)—Increase of rent of fixtures by Gas Light and Coke Co., and other similar concerns has been frequently criticised in JOHN BULL.

"A VICTIM."—How could you "join the French Legion of Honour"? The Legion of Honour is a medal granted by France for services to the Republic. You don't seem eligible, unless you have done a little bit of German-polishing.

"EX-SERVICE MEN" (Lambeth).—You missed our previous reference, but we do not mind saying again that the Lambeth Food Office, in paying you clerks £1 19s. 8d. a week, is doling out a starvation wage of which it should be thoroughly ashamed.

A. E. A. (Westcliff-on-Sea).—As you've writ.en a similar letter to Sir Auckland Geddes, we had better leave him to make the first move.

J. R. C.—Statement of accounts of Aber and Blaengwynfi Patriotic Fund to hand. We don't like it, because five officials receive £45 as "honorarium." The public money was not subscribed for them.

"FIRST DIVISION" (Knights of Columbus) says no Englishman need apply in Canada. "The country is not what it is made out to be. It is full of crooks and sharks." Not exactly full, we hope.

F. W. C. (Ireland).—Have nothing to do with J. A. Davis & Co., 26, Denmark Hill, Camberwell, advertising delivery of "Big Ben" watches upon receipt of 1s. deposit.

"VICTIM" (Fulham).—Your tale is a bit tangled, but from what we can make of it your employers are a poor lot. Are you not eligible for Trade Union membership?

"EX-SOLDIER" (Lewisham). — The Borough Council permitted an open market on condition that stalls be held only by ex-Service men of the borough. If the condition is broken, the Town Clerk might skip round and tick off the intruders.

"MORE SUGAR."—"When are the whisky and spirits going to be free?" Ah! There we recognise a cry from the heart that touches ours. When, indeed!

C. C. (Wolverhampton).—Yes, it is a bit naughty of L. Finsberg, moneylender, 23, Haymarket, to send you two unstamped letters offering to lend money, so costing you 4d. But he saved 3d., so perhaps he is happy.

W. T. (Lurgan).—Bless your life! Londonderry is not the only place where they sell rotten eggs or throw 'em.

"40 MARY 5."—"Tell me how to start a collection to buy a riddle for Macomochie's?" To answer your conundrum, when you want to "buy" a riddle, give it up.

C. L. P. (Middlesboro').—"Winter Garden, Middlesboro'. Now open. Admission, one penny. Men in uniform half price." Such is the reward of merit.

"READER" (Clerkenwell Road).—Your wife paid 3d. for P.O. telephone call and got none. To get level, you asked for 3 penny stamps at same post office and vamoosed without paying for them. If you hear no more from the P.M.G., consider yourself in luck.

"REGULAR READER" (Winton).—You evidently could edit this paper better than we do, so we shall know where to turn if we want a holiday.

"THE WOODMAN" (Essex).—"A cow will eat almost anything to bursting point." Perhaps so, but you must allow the animal to know its own business.

"A DEMON, TOMMY."—Because somebody said, "Here you are, then!" and a forewoman complained, two men who did not say it were discharged by a big tea-firm. "Don't we think it should be seen to?" Most decidedly. It looks like rank injustice.

S. P. (Leeds).—A disabled soldier who considers his pension unfairly assessed cannot expect better treatment unless he applies to the Pensions Committee for it. This appears to cover the case of Pte. S. Elliwood.

G. N. H. (Victoria).—If the Government official only works from 1 to 4, he would tell you he earns his salary in those three hours. But you need not believe him.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly without Drudgery or Failure.

In a few months, with less than half the usual practice, my modern, progress-compelling **Piano Correspondence Lessons** will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading ordinary music, that you shall play with spirit and feeling Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

I guarantee success to any average person. Adult Beginners *need not know a note to start.*

Send a card to-day for my illuminating book, **"HOW, WHEN & WHERE."**

Read about my System, see what hundreds, of all ages and stages, say it has done for them, and judge for yourself what it can do for you.

A LADY STUDENT writes:—"I find my arms much stronger, wrists more supple, hands broader, knuckles more separated and fingers both stronger and more sensitive. There is also much improvement in tone and speed. *Your lessons are so comprehensive and interesting that it would be difficult not to improve.*"—Mrs. F. M. P. (Streatham).

A postcard with full address (Mrs., Miss or Mr.) and the word Moderate, Elementary, or Beginner, will bring my book, with term for free advice and opinion, by return.

MR. H. BECKER, 21, Bristol House, Malvern Viaduct, LONDON, E.C.1

Gather round the fireside, enjoy the winter evenings—write now and get a

Berkeley EASY CHAIR

The frame is of great strength, the springs are steel and resilient, long, and flexible, and are fixed in the back, seat, and front edge. The upholstery is thorough and the coverings are Artistic and will match any scheme of decoration. Value is supreme.

There is a world of peaceful rest and enjoyment to be obtained from a Berkeley.

Price £5 : 5 : 0 or 15/- with order and balance 17/6 monthly.

Sold on the Money Back Principle.

Every Berkeley is delivered carriage paid, and if not entirely satisfactory it may be returned AT OUR EXPENSE, and all money paid will be refunded in full.

FREE Send your name and address on a postcard and we will forward you Post Free full particulars and samples of coverings for your selection.

H. J. SEARLE & SON, LTD.,

Manufacturing Upholsterers.

(Dept. J.B.) 70-78, OLD KENT RD., LONDON, S.E.1

THE GREAT BRAIN FOOD

BRAININE

The Only Cure for Brain Fag.

It is a great vitaliser. It builds up, through the brain, the whole nerve system. It makes work a pleasure. It

Solves the Drug Problem.

It is free from strychnine or any poisonous ingredient. It is no quack preparation. It is made up from the prescription of a great Brain Specialist. It is

Strongly recommended by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

It is sold in tubes at 1/3 and 3/-. To be obtained at the Army and Navy Stores, Boots, and all leading Chemists; or direct, post free, from—

BRAININE 35, Buckingham Gate, LONDON, S.W.

Every Morning

OFTEN, before the dawn, many women workers are out and doing. The air is often cold and raw, but they can defy the weather if they use Oatine. 1/6 and 3/- of all Chemists Always ask for

Oatine FACE CREAM

All Oatine window displays are eligible for entry in "John Bull" Window Dressing Competition. The Oatine Co., Borough, London, S.E.

DRAPERY REMNANTS Start in the Remnant Trade and make money.

No experience required. Stocks of Prints, Velles, Flettes, Towels, Hosiery, Overalls, Fancy Goods, &c. Price list free from **HARRY H. CLEGG** (Dept.), 98, HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER. Wholesale only

THERMOGENE

Nature's First Aid

Thermogene is the proved relief for

NEURALGIA	RHEUMATISM	BRONCHITIS	PLEURISY*
LUMBAGO	CHEST COLDS	SORE THROATS	PNEUMONIA*
SPRAINS	SCIATICA	MUSCULAR PAINS	*Also ask Medical advice

And a hundred Kindred Ailments.

Obtainable at all chemists, price 1/3 and 3/- per box.

Look for the familiar orange-coloured box in the chemists' windows.

THERMOGENE CO., LTD., Haywards Heath, Sussex.

£200 FOR YOU

If You Know

EPHRAIM GREGORY

Information concerning Ephraim Gregory, formerly of Trowbridge, England, is wanted in connection with the closing of an Estate. This REWARD will be paid for information and establishment of his present whereabouts, if alive; or if dead, for information and proper proof of the date and place of his death, and the names and whereabouts of his children and heirs at law.

THE NEW JERSEY TITLE GUARANTEE AND TRUST COMPANY, 83-85 Montgomery St., Jersey City, N.J. U.S.A.

'BULLETS' NEW YEAR OFFER

1ST PRIZE **£500** 1ST PRIZE

2ND Prize **£50** 3RD PRIZE **£10**

10 PRIZES OF £5 | 10 PRIZES OF £20 | 50 PRIZES OF 10/- | 400 PRIZES OF 5/- | 1,000 PRIZES OF 2/6 | 7,000 TARGET PRIZES

Please note that in consequence of the Christmas Holidays the closing date of this competition has been extended to January 1st.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

From each one of the Thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. The example will guide you:—Example: MY NEW YEAR WISH. Bullet:—HIGHER WAGES, LOWER PRICES. Competitors may send in two Bullets for sixpence. If more coupons are used an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 358.

MY NEW YEAR WISH
WHEN BOTTOMLEY FINDS OUT
LOOKS BAD
THE SOBER TRUTH
FINISHING TOUCH
ALSO RAN
GETTING MORE BLUNT
WORLD'S CHAMPION
AFTER THE FIGHT
DISAPPOINTING
A BIG SURPRISE
MOTHERS' MEETING
A BUSY MAN
CHRISTMAS CHEER
FILLING THE STOCKING
NO CHICKEN
HARD TO FIND
GOOD ADVICE
IMPROVES WITH KEEPING
MERRY ENGLAND
GERMAN PLOTS
NOT WANTED HERE
UP TO US
KEEPING HER BALANCE
IDLE FELLOW
EYE TO BUSINESS
TRYING TIMES
AFTER A FEW
NOT MARRIED
MORE OR LESS
TOUGH PROPOSITION
MUCH TOO WEAK

No. Closing Date, Thursday, January 1st
Example
Bullet
Example
Bullet
(358) P.O. No.
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If coupon is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.
Signed
Address

IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No. Closing Date, Thursday, January 1st.
Example
Bullet
Example
Bullet
(358) P.O. No.
I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.
If coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.
Signed
Address

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 358. "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 359.

THE NEW YEAR—BOUNCING BABY—WHAT BOTTOMLEY KNOWS—PLAYING AWAY—AFTER THE CUP FOUND OUT TOO LATE—TRYING TIMES—LOOKING FOR WORK—SORRY FATHER AFTER CHRISTMAS—DOWN AND OUT—SLEEPING PARTNER HOWLING SUCCESS—ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT MAN WANTED—IN HIGH SOCIETY—DISMAL FAILURE—CHANGING HIS ARM—GOOD DRINK UNEXPECTED.

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, Jan. 8th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **359** in the top left-hand corner and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets," **No. 359,** "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty-two examples for Competition **358.**

Result of Competition No. 356 ("Bullets" £1,000 Christmas Box) will be published in next week's issue.

BULLETS RULES.

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, there being observerness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed and Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may use one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Our Xmas Gift to You!

The 'J.B.' Pen Gift Coupon value One Shilling

See page 22 for Gift Coupon

JOHN BULL'S GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE

COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE, AND LIMB.

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex. **The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.**

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else. **A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.**

CONDITIONS.

This offer applies only to persons over 10 years and residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

Any number of persons in one family may be separately insured provided an order for JOHN BULL is placed and a registration form is forwarded in respect of each person.

Claims, which must be confined to one of the benefits, must be received by us within three days of the loss or damage, and in the case of death such death must occur within thirty days, and as a direct and sole result of the injury.

Payment will be made subject to any rights which the claimant may have or acquire against, or under, any other Insurance Scheme, Company, or Insurance, and the Proprietors of JOHN BULL shall not be liable until the registered reader has exhausted his or her rights under such insurance.

This offer applies only to the dwelling-house, apartments, or dwelling rooms attached to business premises, of the registered reader, but not to business premises or stock-in-trade.

We reserve to ourselves the right to limit our total payments under this scheme to £10,000, and to discontinue, or make any variation of this offer by the publication of notice in JOHN BULL.

The decision of the proprietors of JOHN BULL upon all questions shall be final.

In order to safeguard ourselves it is stipulated that a fire will not be recognised as such unless a call has been made upon the local Fire Brigade or appliance.

ORDER FORM

TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To .....Newsagent.

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice

Signed.....

Address .....

Dec. 20, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, when your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address of Home.....

Dec. 20, 1919.

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

WHAT WE WILL PAY

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to ...	£200
In Case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye ...	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks	£1 Per Week

BIG INCREASE!

IN OUR MUST-BE-WON FOOTBALL PRIZE THIS WEEK.

£400 MUST BE WON!

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

OR NEXT-LARGEST NUMBER OF WINNING TEAMS.

This week we have increased our Football Prize to no less than £400. The sum of £400 will be paid to the sender of ten winning teams selected from those given on the coupon on this page. Should no competitor succeed in giving ten winning teams, the prize of £400 will be awarded to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams.

NO ENTRANCE FEE. £400 MUST BE WON.

Please note that in consequence of the Xmas Holidays the closing date has been extended to Thursday, January 1st.

£3,800 ALREADY PAID OUT IN PRIZES THIS SEASON.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons do not appear in any other paper.

The competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. A careful study of football form should be made before filling in coupons. The "National News" gives the best and most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should prove assistance to intending competitors.

Coupon neatly and address all entries as follows:—"Football Competition No. 16, JOHN BULL, ...ral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of ... All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but this must not contain entries for other competitions.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

For result of Football Competition No. 13 see page 16.

Read these Rules carefully.

All attempts must be made on coupons taken the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this com... on. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting ...ncil will not be allowed), and must be filled up ...cordance with the instructions given on this page.

The sum of £400 (four hundred pounds) ...ll be paid to the sender of a coupon giving any ten ...ning teams from amongst those playing on Jan. 3rd, ...n on the coupon on this page. If no competitor ...ceeds in giving ten winning teams the prize of ...0 will be paid to the sender of the next largest ...ber of winning teams. If two or more competitors ...ced in giving ten winning teams, or failing that, ...ced in sending the next largest number of winning ..., the £400 will be divided equally amongst them.

(3) Any coupon which has marked upon it more than ten Xs or less than ten Xs will be disqualified.

(4) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(5) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(6) Our employees are debarred from entering this competition.

(7) Any coupon received later than Thursday, January 1st, will be disqualified.

(8) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

HOW TO MARK YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" team will win put a X in the left-hand column headed "Home Win"; if you think the "Away" team will win put a X in the right-hand column headed "Away Win." Only ten teams must be marked in all. If more or less than ten Xs appear on any one coupon it will be disqualified. Coupons MUST be written in ink.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, January 3rd. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, January 1st.

Home Win	Home Team		Away Team	Away Win
	Arsenal	v.	Manchester City	
	Aston Villa	v.	Burnley	
	Derby County	v.	Sunderland	
	Manchester United	v.	Chelsea	
	Bristol City	v.	Birmingham	
	Coventry City	v.	Rotherham County	
	Fulham	v.	Stoke	
	Grimsby Town	v.	Leicester City	
	Notts Forest	v.	Bury	
	South Shields	v.	Hull City	
	Brighton & Hove A.	v.	Brentford	
	Cardiff City	v.	Reading	
	Swindon Town	v.	Plymouth Argyle	
	Clyde	v.	St. Mirren	
	Kilmarnock	v.	Ayr United	
	Third Lanark	v.	Airdrieonians	

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

16 ADDRESS .....

.....

H.SAMUEL

81 SHOPS BESIEGED!

H. SAMUEL'S 81 BIG SHOPS are crowded every day with eager Xmas Gift Buyers! Call early and make the most of the next to FACTORY PRICES that may save you pounds!

CALL NOW! There's an H. Samuel Branch in all chief towns.

Diamond Gipsy Ring 50/-

81 Branches including:

WOOLWICH: 40 & 42, Powis St.
ISLINGTON: 13, High Street
STRATFORD: 22, Broadway
LONDON, E.C. 22, Liverpool St.
BRISTOL: 37 & 2, Wine St.
CARDIFF: 7, St. Mary Street
NEWCASTLE: 9, Grainger St., W.

17/6

HARROGATE WRIST WATCH, fully jewelled, nickel Silver case, 17/6

WRITE FOR FREE BOOK OF 2,000 XMAS GIFTS TO

H.SAMUEL 100, MARKET ST., MANCHESTER.

A Secret Safe

You alone know where it is. Only £2 2s.

Same size as a brick, easily fitted invisibly into your wall—keeps your valuables far safer than till, box, or ordinary safe. You can let it into any wall in hidden position (as behind picture, furniture, etc.), giving absolute security. Best hardened steel door, good six-lever lock (no two alike), and secret device making keyhole practically invisible. Easy to fit in by your-self (list explains how); or bricklayer will do it in hour. Ideal for homes, hotels, westries, shops, etc. Two sizes 9 ins., £2/-; 13 ins., 50/- Sent car. paid on receipt of cash. Money back if dissatisfied and returned sound in 10 days car. paid. Cement for fixing one safe 1/3 extra. Don't wait for burglars but order to-day before you suffer loss, or send for list and local agent to sole makers

BRICK SAFE CO. 127, Moreilla St., Birmingham

Rheumatism

Acute agonising pain is instantly stopped by Smedley's Paste. You will be astonished at the relief from Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, etc., obtained by only one application.

SMEDLEY'S PASTE

Of all Chemists 1/3, 2/-, 3/- a jar, or from—

Hirst, Brumas & Hirst, Ltd., Leeds.

Hindes

HAIR TINT FOR GREY OR FADED HAIR.

Tints grey or faded hair any natural shade desired — brown, dark-brown, light-brown or black. It is permanent and washable, has no grease, and does not burn the hair. It is used by over three quarters of a million people. A Medical Certificate accompanies each bottle. Of all Chemists, Stores, and Hairdressers, 2/6 the Flask, or direct from HINDES Ltd., 1, Tabernacle Street, City, London.

Patentees and Manufacturers of the World-Famous Hindes Waverers.

LADIES' WINTER BOOT.

Style No. 175. Ladies' fine quality Box Calf lace boot. Fancy punching exactly as illustrated. Stout walking sole. Smart stylish heel. An ideal walking boot. Very smart in appearance and especially adapted for out-door wear.

If not sure of size send outline of stockinged foot.

35/- POST FREE.

STYLE No. 175.

Write for our List of other Styles.

THE MAXIMUM SHOE CO., LTD., Dept. 79, Maximum Works, NORTHAMPTON.

LIVING BENEATH VESUVIUS

People who are suffering from Venereal Disease and have gone for treatment, but who have given up attending the doctor because they think they are cured are doing a foolhardy thing. They are condemning themselves to live under the shadow of a great peril, a peril as ominous as the menace of Vesuvius liable to burst at any moment into terrible activity.

The mere disappearance of painful symptoms is often taken for the disappearance of the disease. Gonorrhœa, in particular, may lie dormant in the system for a considerable time, only to break out again with renewed violence.

Lulled into false security, the victim in the meantime may have married, and so the contagion is passed on.

The only security is to continue treatment *until given a clean bill of health by the doctor, and to dismiss all thoughts of marriage until a cure has been definitely pronounced.* Knowingly to expose others to the possibility of infection with its hideous consequences is an unforgiveable iniquity.

In their early stages both Syphilis and Gonorrhœa are in most cases easily curable. But speedy treatment is half the battle. Every hour wasted after exposure to infection is an hour lost to the doctor. All who are infected or who have taken the risk of infection should seek medical advice at once. Free treatment is provided under conditions of secrecy at the Out Patients' Department of the nearest hospital or Clinic.

Those who are in any doubt or difficulty should write in confidence for information and free literature, to N.C.C.V.D., Lyons Chambers, Vernon Place, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, marking the envelope "Medical." The National Council provides neither prescriptions nor drugs.

This announcement is issued by the National Council for combating Venereal Diseases, a responsible body recognised by the Government. President: Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham. Chairman of Propaganda: Sir McKenzie Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.E. General Secretary: Mrs. A. C. Gotto, O.B.E.

RAINCOATS

33/6 "DREADNOUGHTS" OF THE RAINCOAT WORLD.

Ladies, Gent., Boys and Maids are assured of being kept absolutely dry on the wettest day, by wearing one of our Raincoats which are guaranteed to defy the worst weather.

Made from fine quality cloth, thoroughly proofed, and full check lined, each style is made in light, medium or dark fawn. The styles illustrated are only two of the smart and attractive Raincoats we offer.

Our aim is to give the best value in Great Britain and the hundreds of unsolicited testimonials which we have received, prove that this aim is achieved.

All orders are dealt with in strict rotation and sent carriage paid.

Write to-day for full range of patterns and latest Style Book No. 99.

Your money will be refunded if you are not entirely satisfied.

Any style can be full fleece lined—and a fleece lined Raincoat is warm as a woollen coat and lighter in weight. Full particulars on request.

FASHION-CRAFT MILLS, LTD.,
Registered Offices: 32, Victoria Street, Manchester.

"The National Drink"

STONE'S GINGER WINE

Sold by the glass at all bars, buffets, theatres, &c.

Sickness, Wasting and Violent Pain.

London Lady's Illness that Baffled Treatment Soon Cured by Dr. Cassell's Tablets

Mrs. Cross

Mrs. Cross, 35, Brockdene Road, Plumstead, says: "I was ill for a month with pneumonia, which left me terribly weak and dizzy, and with severe griping pains in my body, which nothing would relieve. I ate hardly anything, for I had no appetite, and naturally I wasted away till I was just a shadow. I felt very sick at times, and used to vomit, sometimes three times a day. My complaint was said to be colic, and I had medicine for it, but instead of getting better I got worse. I looked awful by this time, pale as a sheet, and everybody thought I was dying. My husband was in France, and when he came home on leave he sat up with me, feeling I would die any minute.

"I was almost hopeless of recovery, when I got Dr. Cassell's Tablets. But soon there was a change then. I began to eat better, and the terrible pain grew less and less till it was quite gone. Rapidly my health and strength came back, and now I feel like a new being, I am so well and active."

Dr. Cassell's Tablets

The Universal Home Remedy for

Nervous Breakdown	Kidney Trouble
Nerve Paralysis	Indigestion
Neuritis	Wasting Disease
Hysteria	Debilitation
Sleeplessness	Vital Exhaustion
Anæmia	Nervous Debility

Specially valuable for Nursing Mothers and during the Critical Periods of Life.

HOME PRICES
1/3 & 3/-
the 3/- size being the more economical. Sold by Chemists in all parts of the world. Ask for Dr. Cassell's Tablets, and refuse substitutes.

FREE INFORMATION
as to the suitability of Dr. Cassell's Tablets in your case sent on request.—Dr. Cassell's Co. Ltd., Chester Rd., Manchester, England.

YOUR TROUBLE IS INDIGESTION IT'S NOT YOUR LIVER.

CICFA IS THE CURE.

On holidays, when you are travelling, visiting, or dating away from home, it is not the Liver—it is Bowel indigestion which causes that troublesome CONSTIPATION. CICFA removes that trouble. READ THE REASON WHY.

You have a Liver. You think it is affected. The chances are 10 to 1 that your Liver itself is perfectly sound, but its action is being upset by frequently dosing it with purgatives, etc., and as a consequence your food is not digesting, but fermenting and creating gases.

As it is rolled down the Bowel the starchy part, like bread, potatoes, beans, etc., is formed into little hard dry masses or "Starch Balls," which block the passage, and you have constipation, also a defective Bile Circulation. Fermentation continues, and acids and impurities from the undigested food are absorbed through the wall of the Bowel into the blood and poured on into the Liver. Though your Liver may be quite healthy, it is soon overworked and giving you troublesome symptoms; therefore your symptoms are not due to an affected Liver but to those acids

and impurities which are formed by indigestion in the Bowel and carried on to the Liver.

Your blood becomes impure and more acid, affecting your joints and deep muscles, causing Rheumatism, Lumbago, and Sciatica.

It is therefore useless to treat the Rheumatism, the Lumbago, the Sciatica, or the Liver. They are not at fault. The fault lies in the Bowel Indigestion. You must cure that Indigestion.

Probably you suffer also from Acid Dyspepsia.

Whether you have Acid Dyspepsia or some other form of Stomach Indigestion, it should receive immediate attention, because each stage of Digestion affects each succeeding stage, so that the upsetting of digestion in one portion of the tract quickly affects digestion in other portions. Ordinary indigestion remedies such as Pepsin, Bismuth, Soda, Rhubarb, etc., cannot therefore be expected to cure you, for at best they can only help in local spots, while any remedy which can Cure must be able to correct the errors of Digestion wherever they are occurring throughout the whole alimentary tract.

Cicfa is the only preparation which can do this, and Cicfa has this power because its discoverer succeeded in combining such Digestive Ferments as would ensure perfect digestion at every point along the whole alimentary tract.

Cicfa therefore cures because it ensures complete digestion of all the albuminous food in the Stomach and all the Starchy food in the Bowel, corrects the Bile Circulation, prevents fermentation and the formation of "Starch Balls," so that all the nourishment is absorbed into the blood, the refuse is normal, and there can be no Constipation. Cicfa, in fact, contains that perfect combination of Digestive Ferments which Nature requires to ensure this. That's why Cicfa cures.

Cicfa has been taken up by over 16,000 British doctors, many of whom have written us of the splendid results secured upon themselves and patients by Cicfa.

This, like all our testimonials, was unsolicited.

READ IT.

IT'S WONDERFUL.

Weedon, Bucks.

Sirs,—My conscience prompts me to write you a word of praise for your Cicfa. I am one of those men who already patented [illegible] of taking any [illegible] I have suffered over three [illegible] I am 38 years of age [illegible] indigestion, and now I am 39 years old. I have tried all the [illegible] remedies that I could possibly get, and I was also under [illegible] but was no better. I was [illegible] and did [illegible] how I was [illegible] and was [illegible] out of me, and he [illegible] me to have a bottle of Cicfa [illegible]. I took his advice and had [illegible] bottle. I took the two [illegible] in the space of a fortnight, and I have never had a [illegible] since. I don't mind [illegible] for I am cured. If Cicfa cures [illegible] as fast as it cured me I don't see how it pays to manufacture it.—Yours [illegible],

E. L.

10,000 BRITISH DOCTORS

have taken up Cicfa. Very many of these have written us privately of the splendid results which they have obtained by its use. When thousands of British Doctors are satisfied with Cicfa you do not need a sample with which to test it. There can be no better proof. You can proceed to take it at once. Purchase from your Chemist (all Chemists sell Cicfa at 1s. 3d. and 2s.). Or if there is any delay, from us on receipt of Postal Order.

THE CICFA COMPANY,
Ltd., Dept. 99, Manchester 99, London.

Cicfa in Canada. 50 Cent Size, from Capsuloid Co., Bronkville, Ontario.

Cicfa in United States, 50 Cent Size, from Capsuloid Co., Morristown, New York State.

J.B. 20/12/19.

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